WORLD SOCCER

APRIL 1969 THREE SHILLINGS

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WHO WANTS A 10-9 SCORE LINE?

Speaking Personally

LESLIE VERNON

A COUPLE of seasons ago, the Football League management committee decided to issue a weekly publication which would serve as the official organ of this august body.

The latest brainchild of this mouthpiece of the world's most powerful league competition is the idea that points should be awarded only for goals scored. Alternatively, three points for away wins, two for home wins and one for a draw are suggested.

Secretary Alan Hardaker himself supports these incredible propositions, and comes forward with this remark: "At the risk of being shot at dawn, what about the obvious answer? No points at all for a draw!"

These offerings are supposed to be the result of an enquiry specially conducted in order to find an answer to the prevailing domination of defensive football. I have often pointed out in this column that the present over-defensive trend must be halted, otherwise the game will gradually lose its appeal.

Tight defence

But I could not disagree more with these so-called solutions, and before I comment on them, let me quote the findings of the enquiry: "Tight defences have evolved, because unless a team concedes a goal, they can earn a point without scoring. Yet the whole idea of football is to put scoring shots into the net. If attacking football was adequately rewarded, the whole emphasis of the game would swing away from defence."

Ah, here is the usual false premise—"the idea of football is to put scoring shots into the net." It is not! The idea of football is to score more goals than the opposition, and to win matches. Any suggestion which ignores this truism is doomed. The "points for goals only" idiocy was bandied about once before, last season, and the response to it was a deafening silence!

Let us imagine the type of football we would see if this "reform" were accepted. There would be plenty of goals perhaps, but how many of them would be genuinely earned? What would prevent teams starting off by scoring five goals each before they bring on their goalkeepers? How many pre-arranged high-scoring draws would be played? And please do not write to me about the integrity of the British managers.

They are only human, and remember what happened to the substitute rule? After a trial period, the "for injuries only" clause had to be deleted because of the avalanche of mysterious injuries, pulled muscles, etc. But even if all the teams tried to be honest, would it be a fair reflection on the strength of the contestants if, let's say, West Ham would be first with 20 goals scored in ten *losing matches* and Manchester United second with 19 goals scored in ten *winning matches*?

The crowd wants to see goals, but not meaningless contests between teams who are only facing each other for 90 minutes in order to score goals for a chart. The whole concept is too ridiculous for discussion and consideration, and must be rejected without any further "investigation".

Realistic

The alternative suggestion is much more realistic, but an extra point for away wins would not solve the basic problem. It could not apply to international cup-ties, where the defensive mania is even more pronounced than in league matches. And in the championship, teams intent on honours do try to win their away fixtures; there is no real need for further incentives.

There have been several attempts in the past to stimulate goalscoring by some sort of bonus system. In Australia and in the USA, the entire point structure was tied to the number of goals scored, and there is an experiment this season in the French Second Division which gives bonus points for goals.

Difference

These methods did not make any appreciable difference to the rate of scoring in either country, and in France the goals per games aggregate is 3.1 in the Second Division as opposed to 2.7 in the First. This slight increase is due to the fact that two teams (Angers and Angouleme) are vastly superior to the others, and Angers got 78 goals in 23 matches, Angouleme 72 in 24 matches.

It is all pretty inconclusive, and I firmly believe that no "outside" legislation could change the depressing pattern of present-day football. The game itself should be reformed by changing some of the ancient laws, thus making "prevention" more difficult and scoring easier. Now, the defenders are encouraged to stop attacks by hook or crook. The No. 1 priority is to clamp down mercilessly on the "tactical foulers", the time-wasters, the shirt-tuggers! Stricter refereeing is badly needed, and the benefit of doubt should always be given to the attacking team.

The concept of "passive offside" should be accepted once again! I have seen several goals disallowed recently because another forward (sometimes lurking on the edge of the penalty box) was standing in an offside position. As long as the scorer is onside, and the offending player is not actively interfering with the play or obscuring the goalkeeper's view, a goal should be given.

Situation

An over-zealous linesman with the flag up is not necessarily the best judge of every situation.

As for practical reforms, I have advocated "the free-kick instead of the throw-in" idea, the abolition of offside when free-kicks are taken, the abolition of the defensive wall when free-kicks are taken within a radius of 30 yards of the goal, etc. None of these innovations would change the character of the game, but I repeat, it would make goal-scoring easier.

Footballers are still as eager as ever to put the ball into the net, but now the pendulum has swung too far in favour of the well - organised, high - skilled defences. Decisive, firm action is wanted, but silly, muddled schemes should not be taken seriously!

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THE INTERNATIONAL MAGAZINE

World Soccer

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Editor:
JACK ROLLIN

April contents

		Page
Speaking Personally	Leslie Vernon	2
Dateline Diary		4
International Post Mortem	Roger Macdonald	8
Italian Newsletter	Chris West	10
Fairs Cup Review	Arthur Rotmil	12
Focus on Tottenham Hotspur	Philip Rising	13
Carlo Sartori Interview	Chris West	14
Soccer Notebook	Brian Glanville	16
This England	Gordon Jeffery	18
Month Ahead	Eric Batty	20
West German Newsletter	Arthur Rotmil	21
Hungarian News	Leslie Vernon	22
Policeman and Judge?	Eric Batty	23
Report from South America	Eric Weil	24
World Diary	Roger Macdonald	26
South American Commentary	Gordon Jeffery	28
Microscope	Eric Batty	30
Searching the Soccer Scene	Arthur Rotmil	32
Rhodesian News	Norman Adams	34
USA News	Colin Jose	35
European Commentary	Gordon Jeffery	36
European League Review	Roger Macdonald	38
This Scotland	John Stone	40
World Diary (continued)	Roger Macdonald	41
Around the World Stories		42
On Reflection	David Miller	43
Soccertistics		44

FRONT COVER PICTURE

Pele, of Santos and Brazil, continues to delight the soccer fans of South America and remains a key figure in Brazil's international plans for the future. (Met)

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APRIL WORLD SOCCER 1969
VOL. 9 No. 7

COMMENT

DATELINE DIARY and SOCCERTISTICS are two new features commencing in WORLD SOCCER this month. They are both symbolic of our plans to increase our coverage—particularly at news and statistical levels—of the soccer world as a whole.

DATELINE DIARY is designed to report the events that make news, no matter where they occur. From Moscow to Madrid, Brussels to Bogota, San Francisco to San Jose, Milan to Mexico City, Liege to London . . . WORLD SOCCER is there providing you—our readers—with the best possible coverage of the association football scene.

SOCCERTISTICS will enthral those thousands of soccer enthusiasts who take great pleasure in keeping detailed records of international matches and club tournaments the world over. This month, for example, we bring you a detailed dossier of the three major club tournaments that have been staged in South America recently. Plus league results from various European countries. In addition, our 1970

by THE EDITOR

World Cup chart, with results of all the matches and up-to-date section tables, will run through until the Mexico finals start next year. International line-ups, too, and in future months a number of league tables.

These two new WORLD SOCCER features back our already established team of authoritative and respected soccer writers, who are men with a sincere approach to football who symbolise the magazine's attitudes and ideals. We endeavour to be broad-minded in our outlook, fair in our comment.

We are proud that WORLD SOCCER is read, enjoyed and held in high esteem by football administrators, players and managers not only in Britain but on the Continent, too.

We hope that you will enjoy these new features. But we are always ready to consider new ideas from readers and would welcome any that you care to put forward. If there is any country that you feel is not being adequately covered . . . let us know.

For the world of soccer is WORLD SOCCER.

World Soccer's DATELINE DIARY

FEBRUARY 11

ZURICH: FIFA said here today that it had decided to select a majority of neutral referees for the final rounds of the forthcoming World Cup competition in Mexico. Of the 30 referees to be chosen, 18 will be neutral—not from any of the 16 countries who will qualify. Hitherto each finanalist was entitled to have a referee at the tournament. Under the new ruling, decided by FIFA Referees Committee which met in Teheran last weekend, nine referees will be from qualifying countries and three from the host nation (Mexico). A preliminary selection of referees will be made in September.

ZURICH: Sir Stanley Rous would be heading the FIFA delegation to the conference of the International Football Association Board to be held on June 23 in Jersey, Channel Islands, a FIFA spokesman said here today. FIFA proposals on the agenda of the board, which is responsible for the laws of the game, cover obstructing the goalkeeper and penalising players who enter the field without the referee's permission. The spokesman said FIFA would not propose any action until after the 1970 World Cup on the new law under which goalkeepers must part with the ball after taking four steps in possession. It had also been decided not to raise the question of waiving the offside rule at free-kicks as FIFA had not yet gained enough experience at experimental matches to decide whether it should back such a move.

FEBRUARY 12

AMSTERDAM: Benfica beat Ajax 3-1 (2-0) in the first leg of their European Cup match here tonight. Jacinto (penalty), Torres and Augusto scored for Benfica and Danielsson netted for Ajax.

TOKYO: The Japanese Amateur Football Association have invited Middlesex Wanderers to tour Japan. The association said details about the trip were still to be negotiated. The English side would come here probably in May for a series of matches against local amateur teams.

PARIS: A reinforced French B team drew 2-2 with Hungary here tonight in a practice match for France's full international against England next month. The French team was strengthened by the inclusion of three regular internationals and had the better of the play. Wing-half Henri Michel and forwards Jean Pierre Bras, Georges Bereta and Georges Loubet excelled. Revelli and Floch scored for France and Albert and Rakosi netted for Hungary.

FEBRUARY 13

CANARY ISLANDS: Morocco eliminated Senegal in their play-off match here in Las Palmas tonight in the qualifying rounds of the World Cup. Morocco won 2-0 (0-0).

FEBRUARY 15

MEXICO CITY: Five thousand British soccer fans have booked to watch the World Cup finals in Mexico next year. This figure was disclosed at a press conference given here by officials of the League of Football Fans of Great Britain.

LISBON: Portugal and Italy drew 1-1 in a preliminary round match of the European Youth Soccer Championship here today. Machado scored for Portugal and Landini for Italy. Both goals were scored in the first-half.

FEBRUARY 18

LONDON: The English FA, tightening up on time-wasting in League matches, today fined a player £25 for deliberately delaying the taking of a free-kick. The player, Crystal Palace forward Mark Lazarus, was also warned as to his future conduct.

FEBRUARY 19

LISBON: Ajax beat Benfica 3-1 in their European Cup quarter-final second leg match here tonight to leave the teams level 4-4 on aggregate. Danielsson and Cruyff (2) scored for Ajax; Torres for Benfica. Ajax led 3-0 at half-time. Attendance: 35,000.

MILAN: Celtic, fighting magnificently in defence, emerged with a 0-0 draw from snowswept San Siro Stadium tonight. Driving snow in the first half and freezing rain in the second turned this quarter-final first leg match between AC Milan and Celtic into a wintry farce. The 70,000 crowd threw lighted flares onto the pitch to dispel the gloom as the snow cut down visibility. But they were not needed to illuminate the sparkling wizardry of Celtic winger Jimmy Johnstone, whose mazy dribbles brought delighted roars from the crowd. Celtic relied on defence with goalkeeper John Fallon a superb last line. He was beaten only once—when a second-half shot from Rivera crashed against the bar. Said Celtic manager Jock Stein: "I have no complaints—except the weather, of course. We would have liked to win but a draw is quite a satisfactory result for us." Receipts for the match totalled 138 million lire (about £90,000) falling below the record 179 million lire for a match between Inter Milan and Real Madrid in 1966.

SYDNEY: Four British-born players are included in the 45-man Australian soccer squad named today to prepare for the World Cup qualifying rounds next October. They are Scottish-born Archie Blue and Hamilton McMeechan and English-born Johnny Watkiss and Stan Ackerley. Also in the squad is John Warren, an Australian who recently had a trial in England with Stockport County.

TURIN: Slovan Bratislava of Czechoslovakia beat Italian Cup winners Torino 1-0 here in the first leg of their European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final today. There was no score at half-time. Jokl netted in the 50th minute. Attendance: 10,000.

WEST BROMWICH: English Cup holders WBA were beaten 1-0 by Dunfermline of Scotland in the second leg of their European Cup-Winners' Cup quarter-final match here tonight. Gardner scored after only 90 seconds. The teams drew the first leg 0-0. Attendance: 32,269.

FEBRUARY 20

BOGOTA: The Soviet Union beat Colombia 3-1 in an international here today. The half-time score was 1-1. Guershkovich and Muntyan (2) scored for the Russians and Santa replied for Colombia.

FEBRUARY 21

BRUSSELS: Rapid Vienna, playing a

AMSTERDAM: Ajax defenders Bals (goalkeeper) and Van Duivenbode (4) defend their goal desperately during the first leg of their European Cup match against Benfica. Also pictured: Eusebio (10) and Muller (Ajax). Benfica won 3–1 but lost the second leg by the same score and had to play-off in Paris. (UPI)

DATELINE DIARY, a new monthly feature, brings you day by day soccer news from the world over. Each day's major events in the world of association football are recorded and published in our exclusive DATELINE DIARY.

warm-up match before their European Cup quarter-final first leg encounter against Manchester United, were overwhelmed by Anderlecht, 3-0, here tonight. Anderlecht, playing a scratch side without their seven internationals, got all their goals in the second-half. The first came when Bjerregaard of Rapid put into his own net in the 50th minute. The Belgian side scored two further goals in the 75th and 88th minutes by Mulders and Nordahl respectively.

FEBRUARY 23

WARSAW: Ujpest Dozsa (Hungary) beat Legia Warsaw 1-0 in an Inter-Cities Fairs Cup third round first leg match played here today. The game was watched by a crowd of 6,000. Dunai scored Dozsa's winning goal in the 85th minute. Winners of this tie meet Leeds United in the quarter-finals.

MILAN: AC Milan drew 0-0 at home to Fiorentina in an Italian First Division match today.

LIEGE: A crowd of about 39,000 saw Belgium score a well-deserved 2-1 victory in a disappointing match against Spain. *(See report page 8).*

SAN FRANCISCO: Kiev Dynamo of the Soviet Union defeated the California Clippers 3-2 here in the first soccer match ever played by a Russian team in the U.S. A crowd of 11,800 watched the game.

SAN JOSE (COSTA RICA): Polish champions Gornik were beaten 2-1 by local club Herediano in the last game of their 12-match tour of Latin America. It was the first defeat of Gornik's tour—they won nine games and drew the other two.

FEBRUARY 24

RIO DE JANEIRO: The Soviet Union soccer squad arrived here today for two matches against Brazilian clubs on the second stage of their World Cup warm-up tour of South America. The Russians, fresh from a 3-1 victory over Colombia in Bogota, meet Vasco da Gama at the reopening of Rio's giant Maracana Stadium on Thursday next and Atletico Mineiro in Belo Horizonte next Monday.

FEBRUARY 26

MANCHESTER: An almost vintage performance by European Cup holders Manchester United enabled them to defeat Rapid Vienna 3-0 in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final tie. George Best scored two minutes from half-time and Willie Morgan and Best again netted in the second. Attendance: 63,118.

ATLANTA: Three British players who have been with Atlanta Chiefs since the team was formed two years ago have signed their 1969 contracts, the North American club announced here. They are half-back Ray Bloomfield, who was formerly with Aston Villa, forward Graham Newton (Bournemouth) and full-back John Cocking (Sunderland).

BRATISLAVA: Spartak Trnava beat AEK Athens 2-1 in the first leg of their European Cup quarter-final here today. Trnava led 2-0 at half-time. Jarabk (25th minute) and Kabat (44th) scored for Spartak; Sevastopoulos (61st) for AEK. Attendance: 20,000.

SPLIT: Yugoslavia beat Sweden 2-1 in a friendly international here today. Bjekovic and Musemic scored for Yugoslavia, Magnusson for Sweden. All the goals were scored in the first half.

BUDAPEST: Ujpest Dozsa qualified to meet Leeds United in the Fairs Cup quarter-finals when a 2-2 draw gave them a 3-2 aggregate victory over Legia Warsaw. Ujpest, who won the first leg 1-0 in Warsaw last Sunday, were 2-0 down at half-time. But second-half goals from Dunai and Solymosi put them into the next round. Stachurski and Zmijewski were the Legia scorers. Attendance: 12,000.

MEXICO CITY: Raul Osorio, Mexican First Division referee, was suspended for one year by the Referees' Penal Tribunal here today. His suspension follows charges of incompetence in a game between Guadalajara and Necaxa three weeks ago. The match at Guadalajara ended in a brawl when Necaxa were leading 2-1. Four Guadalajara players were fined 500 pesos (£15) to pay for medical expenses incurred by a Necaxa player, whose nose was broken. Necaxa players did not escape either. Four of them will have to pay 250 pesos (£7) each as a token fine.

MADRID: Spain's elimination from the 1970 World Football Cup competition has underlined the deepening crisis which has hit the game in this fanatical soccer nation.

Spain has never achieved better than fourth place in the world contest, but this month's elimination from the qualifying rounds by Belgium, a minor European soccer power, is the latest in a long series of humiliations.

Spanish football today is crippled by old-fashioned defensive tactics, unimaginative training and the lack of new men and new ideas.

This has brought a crisis of confidence. The national team and top clubs have many fine, top-class players, but the teams have lost the will to score. They are beset by a defensive mentality.

Not since 1966 has a Spanish team won a European competition, and Spanish First Division matches are often dull clashes between teams determined not to lose. Goal scoring has reached a low ebb in Spain.

Spanish selectors claim their teams play modern counter-attacking football, but they field three midfield players where one could do the work. They pack the penalty area with defenders, and fail to play men capable of sudden counter-thrusts.

The speedy attacking wingers of modern soccer, who reap a ready harvest of goals, are virtually unknown in Spain. In the best

● *Continued overleaf*

SOUTH VIETNAM: Taking time out from their duties, members of the Headquarters and Service Company and the Maintenance Company teams stir up dust during their first annual Dust Bowl intramural football game at the Marine Force Logistic Support Group Bravo at the Dong Ha Combat Base. With only one day's practice, the Headquarters and Service team won 12–0.

MANCHESTER: Arms raised, Denis Law (10) acknowledges the first goal against Rapid Vienna scored by George Best, not in picture. (UPI)

modern teams of Europe they are the most prized players on the field.

The fatal match against Belgium in Liege on February 23, the second vital leg of Spain's qualifying tie in the World Cup competition, showed up all the faults behind present-day Spanish soccer.

With Belgium already poised to win the qualifying group, Spain had to win to stand a chance of earning a ticket to the Finals in Mexico. Spain had only managed to draw the first leg 1-1 in Madrid last December.

So Spanish soccer fans were shocked on the morning of the match when they read that national trainer-selector Dr. Eduardo Toba had ordered Spain to play for a draw.

Senor Toba said he would be happy in the team managed to score a goal. No one in Spain was surprised when Spain lost 2-1, and the press demanded that heads should roll.

The Madrid newspaper *Nuevo Diario* said the time had come for the Spanish Federation, "for years comfortable, idle, ingenuous, blind, deaf and dumb, to start working for once with the greatest seriousness, intelligence and efficiency.

"Senor Toba, and many other similar gentlemen who have been making and breaking our football for years, should go back to their homes right away and leave the way free for men who really know football," the newspaper added.

But Spain has never done well in the World Cup. Her best performance was fourth place in Brazil in 1950. In 1954 and 1958 Spain was eliminated in the qualifying rounds. In 1962 and 1966, in Chile and England, Spain reached the final stages but was then quickly eliminated.

In European club competitions the reputation of Spanish soccer rests almost entirely on past performances by Real Madrid, the fabulous team which won the European Cup six times, the last in 1966.

But that was the last Spanish club victory in international contests, and this season Real Madrid were quickly eliminated from the European Cup by Rapid of Vienna.

Spanish teams have won few other European competitions in the past ten years. Atletico Madrid won the European Cup Winners Cup in 1962, and Valencia, Saragossa and Barcelona have each scored triumphs in the Inter-Cities Fairs Cup.

The game is also blighted by a curious lack of patriotism. Spanish players give first allegiance to their clubs, and men who perform with zest and brilliance in league matches are often accused of being listless in international matches, and mainly interested in avoiding injuries.

For Spain, whose past soccer successes have been built on strength, attacking fury and a driving determination to score, this listlessness and defensive mentality have spelled disaster.

But Spanish soccer has many fine players and some promising young stars. Many experts believe it could once again reach the heights with a determined push from a rejuvenated national federation, the appointment of new managers, and a return to the best attacking traditions.

DATELINE DIARY

of

WORLD SOCCER

● Continued from previous page

FEBRUARY 27

BILBAO: Spanish football club Atletico Bilbao and Glasgow Rangers will play their Inter-Cities Fairs Cup quarter-final matches in Glasgow on March 19 and the second leg in Bilbao on April 2, the secretary of the Spanish club said here today. The dates were decided by the committee of the Fairs Cup competition after the two teams had failed to reach an agreement.

FEBRUARY 28

NICOSIA: A Cypriot footballer was banned by the Cyprus Football Association's Judicial Committee today for attacking a British referee and linesman during a Cypriot First Division match three weeks ago. The length of the ban was not specified. The committee expressed its appreciation of the contribution made to Cypriot football by British officials, mainly from British service units. Following the attack British referees and linesmen withdrew from Cypriot league games.

MARCH 1

BILBAO: Former England international Ronnie Allen signed a contract here today to coach Spanish First Division club Atletico Bilbao for the next three seasons. A brief announcement of the contract, signed in Spanish and English, gave no further details of the agreement. But Atletico said Allen's reported salary of £6,000 was "way off the mark". Mr. Allen is the first British manager contracted by Atletico Bilbao, one of Spain's oldest teams, since 1948. He has been brought in to remodel the team on English lines, and will be in charge of all playing matters. In December last year Atletico offered the trainer's job to Tommy Docherty, but he turned it down and later took over as manager at Aston Villa.

MARCH 2

LISBON: Newcastle United's Fairs Cup quarter-final opponents, Setubal, drew 1-1 with Leixoes in a home Portuguese First Division match here today.

MARCH 3

ATLANTA, GEORGIA: Five British League clubs have agreed to compete in a month-long cup competition to be run by the North American Soccer League. The League's five remaining clubs will be represented as follows: Aston Villa (Atlanta), West Ham (Baltimore), Wolverhampton Wanderers (Kansas), Kilmarnock (St. Louis) and Dundee United (Dallas). The competition will open the League season which will operate between June and September. In view of the fact that only five of the League's original 17 clubs are still in existence, Phil Woosnam, NASL executive director, said the visiting teams are being brought over to re-create interest

in the game and thought that their presence might keep big-time soccer alive in the United States.

MARCH 5

VIENNA: Manchester United progressed to the semi-finals of the European Cup after drawing 0-0 against Rapid Vienna (aggregate 3-0). United made more than enough chances to win while Rapid never looked like pulling back the deficit incurred in the first leg. Attendance: 52,000.

LEEDS: Fairs Cup holders Leeds United suffered an unexpected setback when they were defeated 1-0 on their own ground by Ujpest Dozsa in the first leg of their quarter-final tie. Dunai scored for Ujpest in the 72nd minute. Giles missed a penalty for Leeds, goalkeeper Szentmihalyi saving brilliantly. Attendance: 30,906.

PARIS: Ajax moved into the semi-finals of the European Cup after beating Benfica 3-0 after extra time in their quarter-final play-off. Cruyff scored after only four minutes of extra time. Danielsson scored twice to complete the scoring (15th and 23rd minutes). Attendance: 63,000.

An estimated 30,000 Ajax supporters made the trip from Amsterdam to see the game despite the fact that many Dutch firms, fearing absenteeism, hired television sets so their staffs could see the match live at work. Trade and industry experts calculate that this bout of cup fever could cost Dutch industry about 40 million Guilders (about £4½ million).

MARCH 6

BERNE: In an article published today Mr. Hans Bangerter, secretary of UEFA, called for a fair-play campaign throughout European soccer. Writing in the UEFA Bulletin he said that the Union's memorandum on stricter disciplinary measures would bring a fresh breeze to European competition matches. Suggesting the campaign might include appeals to managers and coaches to preach sportsmanship to their players from the start, he also stated that these appeals may also ask referees to be more severe. Supporting his statement he went on: "Loyalty of all concerned, i.e. the clubs, players and the organisers, towards the referee is, of course, the prime prerequisite for a successful outcome of the undertaking," and added, "only if the principles of fairness, discipline and sportsmanship are the prime concern of all those present in the stadium—players, officials, referees, coaches and spectators—can unpleasant incidents be avoided which do so much harm to our sport, particularly if they are reproduced on the television screens and thus watched by millions of spectators".

PARIS: Four new men were named among a party of 17 players chosen to travel to England for France's game against the World Champions. The four—Jackie Novi (Marseilles), Jean-Paul Rostagni (Monaco), Jean-Claude Bras (Valenciennes) and Claude Petyt (Bordeaux) are all members of the French "B" squad which has been experiencing good results of late. The party also included Joseph Bonnel (Marseilles) and Jacky Simon (Bordeaux) who have been out of the international limelight for some time.

MARCH 7

PARIS: The 1968 "Pierre De Coubertin" sports trophy for fair-play was today awarded to Japan's football team for their performance in the Mexico Olympics. The Japanese team, who came third in the Olympic tournament, behaved in an exemplary manner both on and off the field, the trophy's committee said. The team has already received the fair-play trophy awarded by the International Football Federation for the first time at the last Olympics. Sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), it is awarded annually to individuals or teams for outstanding displays of sportsmanship either in Olympic Games or in any other international event. No cash in involved. Hungarian tennis player Istvan Gulyas won the trophy in 1967.

MILAN: Police searched Northern Italy today for millionaire Felice Riva, former president of AC Milan, who is wanted for alleged fraudulent bankruptcy. Riva was arrested last month but released from custody last week on a legal technicality. A new warrant for his arrest was issued yesterday but police could not find him to deliver it. He is due to appear in court on March 13 in connection with the bankruptcy of his cotton works in the Valle Susa but police think that he has not left the country.

MARCH 8

MOSCOW: Former Russia and Moscow Torpedo captain Valery Voronin, whose career was thought to have ended after a car crash last year, is back in training. Voronin, 30, led Russia in the 1966 World Cup in England but was dropped from the national side after newspaper reports had stated that he was spending more time "carousing" instead of training. One of Europe's finest wing-halves, Voronin was taken to hospital with head injuries after a car crash but the Russian Football Federation refused to confirm widespread reports that his legs were also badly injured.

MARCH 9

SABADELL: Atletico Madrid, Glasgow Rangers opponents in the Fairs Cup quarter-finals, gained a welcome league point in a 1-1 draw here.

SETUBAL: Newcastle United's Fairs Cup opponents were beaten on their own ground by Belenenses in a fifth-round cup match, 3-2.

MARCH 12

RANDERS: FC Cologne beat Freja Randers 3-0 in the second leg of their European Cup Winners Cup quarter-final tie here today. Cologne, who won the first leg at home 2-1, enter the semi-final on a 5-1 aggregate. Ryhl (69 and 82 minutes) and Biskup (25) were the goalscorers. Attendance: 16,500.

BRUSSELS: Portuguese soccer champions Benfica were beaten 3-2 by Anderlecht in a friendly match here today.

TEL AVIV: Israel and Greece drew 3-3 in the first soccer international between the two countries for nine years at Jaffa today. Greece led 2-1 at half-time. Attendance: 15,000.

GLASGOW: Celtic's aspirations of winning the European Cup for a second time were shattered when they were beaten 1-0 here today by AC Milan in the second leg of their quarter-final tie. The teams had drawn the first leg 0-0 but a 12th-minute goal from Prati settled the issue. Attendance: 75,000.

NEWCASTLE: Newcastle United hammered Vitoria Setubal 5-1 in the first leg of their Inter-Cities Fairs Cup quarter-final tie here today. A crowd of 57,662 saw Foggon, Robson (two), Davies and Gibb score the goals that should ensure Newcastle's passage into the semi-finals. Jose Maria replied for the Portuguese club.

WORLD SOCCER'S

DATELINE DIARY

AMSTERDAM: Hundreds of Ajax fans waiting in front of Ajax Stadium for a ticket for the big match against Benfica to be played in Paris. In foreground two lucky fellows show their valuable tickets. (UPI)

Progress made by little teams

THE little teams make further progress in the interminable World Cup groups of Africa and Central America; useful practice for Hungary and Bulgaria; Russia starts their South American tour ... but the big news this month is that one of the 1966 finalists, Spain, are out of the World Cup after a violent and disgraceful match with Belgium in Liege.

THE MONTH'S GAMES

Casablanca: Morocco 1, Hungary 4
Algiers: Algeria 1, Santos 1
Paris: France "B" 2, Hungary 2
Las Palmas: Morocco 2, Senegal 0—WC
Nairobi: Kenya 0, Tanzania 1—ANC
Sofia: Bulgaria 3, Moscow Torpedo 0
Jaffa: Israel 1, Sweden 3
Bogota: Colombia 1, USSR 3
Jaffa: Israel 1, Sweden 0
Guatemala City: Guatemala 1, Haiti 1—WC
Leige: Belgium 2, Spain 1—WC
WC—World Cup; ANC—African Nations Cup

I made the short trip to Belgium in the hope of seeing two of the best teams in Europe rise to the occasion in what was, after all, a critical match for both of them. But instead the importance of the occasion produced only extreme tension, an ever-increasing number of fouls, and finally all the ingredients of a riot.

The Danish referee, Soerensen, must shoulder some of the blame. Right from the start fouls and collisions came in quick succession, but the referee frequently waved play on.

Spain looked the better team in the early part of the match, and Dewalque did well to divert a ferocious free-kick from Gallejo. Belgium interpassed cleverly in midfield, but laid themselves open to sudden counter-attacks. When Iribar made a fine save from Van Himst's header, Spain took the ball quickly upfield and Babza missed a good chance by shooting wide. Soon afterwards Trappeniers had to take the ball off the feet of Babza at great personal risk to save a certain goal.

The first of the really bad fouls was committed by Odilon Polleunis, the *enfant terrible* of Belgian football, in the 32nd minute. He tackled Martin savagely from behind and after some ineffective treatment from the Spanish coach Martin had to be taken off and replaced by Torres.

Almost at once Belgium took the lead from a fine passing movement, which might have come to nothing, however, but for Gallejo's momentary hesitation. Puis found Dewalque in midfield, and his pass on the diagonal was touched on by Heylens to Van Moer near the edge of the box. Gallejo timed his advance well to intercept, but he made the mistake of trying to run square with the ball. Johann Devrindt tore up on his blind side, gained possession, then hit a shot from 30 yards at tremendous pace. Iribar saw it all the way and flung himself off the ground; he got a touch but the ball still hit the net high in the far corner.

Velasquez wasted a good chance for Spain by shooting hurriedly over the bar when not a single Belgian defender was anywhere near him. Belgium continued to use the ball cleverly in midfield, conserving their energy, while Spain chased and harried without much effect.

Then, after a few seconds' play in the second half, Glaria and Van Moer clashed near the penalty area and Van Moer went down clutching his stomach. He was carried off still writhing in pain and the referee had to keep several Belgians away from Glaria, who looked not the slightest bit contrite at the injury. On the contrary he seized the earliest opportunity to bring down Van Himst, who won possession from the free-kick and shot just over the bar.

The match finally boiled over in the 71st minute. Polleunis slyly fouled the Spanish full-back, Silvestre Eladio, who retaliated with a violent kick right under the nose of the referee. Not even Soerensen could avoid sending him off, and his decision was the signal for an incredible free-for-all involving players, trainers, the referee and policemen. Eladio refused to go off, and it took the combined efforts of four policemen to drag him from the field.

The game eventually restarted after a delay of five minutes. Spain brought on two substitutes but quickly went further behind from another fine shot by Devrindt. Asensi immediately reduced Belgium's lead with an equally splendid effort from 20 yards, but Spain's shooting was otherwise well off target.

I suppose some sort of trouble was inevitable after the equally turbulent game in Madrid on December 12, when the Belgian captain Hanlon was sent off for disputing Spain's equalising goal. The teams were equally to blame this time, but firmer refereeing could have prevented the match from degenerating into a brawl.

But for the point lost so controversially in Madrid, Belgium would now be in an invincible position in Group Six. As it is, Spain are definitely eliminated, and Yugoslavia must win their three remaining games even to tie with Belgium on points. As these include fixtures away to Spain and at home to the Belgians themselves, the task may be beyond the Yugoslavs. (*Group table on page 45.*)

So it looks as if Belgium will qualify for the finals, for the first time since 1954. Certainly they have the most combative team in their history, but one laments the missing skills of the Anderlecht-based side that played so well a few years ago. If Belgium go to Mexico, no one will accuse England of being the hardest team in the finals.

No ticket

On the other side of the world a little Central American country, or strictly speaking half an island called Haiti, finally won their sub-section in Group Thirteen. The decisive match, against Guatemala in Guatemala City, should have been played on December 15, but Guatemala forgot to send the Jamaican referee, Jose Adolfo Chaplin, his air ticket. They arranged for Ramon Marmol of El Salvador to referee the game, but Haiti refused to accept the alteration. The game was called off with a crowd of 20,000 already inside the stadium and Guatemala symbolically kicked off and kicked the ball into the net.

FIFA rejected Guatemala's claim for a walkover, and said there had been mistakes on both sides. So the game was rearranged for the end of February, with the same Mr. Chaplin this time turning up. As Haiti had already beaten Guatemala 2-0 but lost at home inexplicably to Trinidad by 4-2 (all scored by one Archibald, if you recall) a few days after beating the same team 4-0, they were a point ahead of their rivals, whose

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Russian football coach Kachelin gives instructions to Sakharov (15) and Eskov (10) during a training session. (UPI)

second game with Trinidad had ended in a goalless draw.

So Guatemala needed to win, and they led at half-time, an opportunist goal after 20 minutes by Gonzales. But Haiti stuck well to their task, and in the 63rd minute Joseph Obas scored the equaliser to put his side through.

Guatemala's elimination will come as a surprise to the US coach, Phil Woosnam, who told me when he was in London recently that they were his most formidable opponents—about the strength of a mid-table English Second Division side. Now the Americans must play Haiti, while El Salvador meet Honduras in the other group semi-final. I fancy the United States to play off with Honduras for a place in Mexico, and there won't be much to choose between them.

Knocked out

Still the World Cup, but another continent—or a combination of continents, for one African nation knocked out another on what I suppose must be regarded as a European ground. A few days after losing 4-1 to Hungary at Casablanca (the Hungarians scored three goals in the first half and one in the second) Morocco took on Senegal for the third time in a play-off on the Spanish League ground of Las Palmas in the Canary Isles.

There should, of course, be no play-offs in the World Cup. It was necessary because Senegal beat Morocco 2-1 after losing the first game 1-0, and the referee did not appreciate that the rules required extra time. Had it been played, and had there been no further score, Senegal would have gone through as the winner of the second match—instead they lost 2-0 at Las Palmas after a goalless first half. But equally well Morocco could have claimed to be outrageously unlucky had they gone out, for their captain, Bamou, missed a penalty.

Morocco now meet Tunisia in the second round. Ethiopia are due to play Sudan, and Nigeria the so far inactive Ghana, at the same stage of the competition. The three winners will form a final group to find a qualifier for Mexico.

Not all the African countries share an interest in the World Cup. One who did, Algeria (before they lost to Tunisia) played Santos of Brazil at Algiers, and did well to draw 1-1 after being a goal down at half-time. And two countries not competing, Kenya and Tanzania, played a first round match in the African Nations Cup at Nairobi. Rather surprisingly, Tanzania won 1-0, hanging on to a goal they scored early in the first half.

Hungary flew from Casablanca to Paris after beating Morocco, where they drew 2-2 in what was a practice match for France's full international against England at Wembley. Albert gave Hungary the lead after 18 minutes, but Revelli, just before half-time, and Floch, in the 63rd minute, put France ahead. It was only a mistake by goalkeeper Baratelli, who was too slow for a back pass, that let in Rakosi for a quick equaliser.

While the Soviet Union's international party took a plane from Moscow to begin a South American tour, the Russian Cup holders, Torpedo Moscow, were fielding a weakened team against the full Bulgarian international side in Sofia. Even after all the recent upheavals, Bulgaria showed excellent teamwork, and they won decisively 3-0. Kotkov, in the first half, Asparoukhov and Zhekov scored the goals.

Russia opened their tour with a 3-1 win over Colombia in Bogota, after drawing 1-1 at half-time. Guershkovich scored their first-half goal and Santa replied for Colombia, who gave as good as they got for almost an hour—when Muntyan scored twice in quick succession.

Europe, Central America, Africa, South America ... and Asia, where Israel took on Sweden in two matches at the Jaffa Stadium, part of their preparations for meeting New Zealand and North Korea (if their government permits them to play) in the World Cup. Sweden put their full team out in the first game and won 3-2, scoring the winning goal near the end after a very even first half that produced four goals. Sweden made seven changes for the second game five days later, bringing in all their reserves. The match was played under floodlights and attracted only 8,000 spectators, who saw Israel dominate the match. After a goalless first half they scored the winner in the 63rd minute, a fine header by centre-forward Feigenbaum. The pass was a free-kick by Israel's inside-left Spiegler, the best player on the field.

Ultimatum

The dates for Israel's World Cup-ties will not be fixed until North Korea reply to FIFA, whose ultimatum about playing or not playing expired before this issue appeared in print. Should Israel win their sub-group, they would meet the winner of Group 15 "A"—who play their series in Seoul next September. Australia, Japan, Rhodesia and South Korea (who act as hosts of course) will play the 12 necessary matches over 17 days some time from September 20 onwards.

Japan must be favourites here, especially as they have persuaded their fine centre-forward, Kamayoto, not to turn professional in West Germany until after the World Cup. But Australia are determined to do better than their humiliating defeat by North Korea last time.

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CHRIS WEST (Italy)

CAGLIARI HANG ON

SO Cagliari are still top-dogs! They managed to squeeze in a goal against Inter, whilst Milan could only draw 0-0 with their nearest rivals Fiorentina. Until February 23 Cagliari were level on points with these two; two weeks before that they were league-leaders.

Now this year's league pattern has been re-established with the Sardinians making all the running. Inter and Juventus are now in fourth and fifth positions, but eight points behind the leaders. It seems that poor Juventus have not quite recovered from the ignominy of the disciplinary action which was taken by the Italian FA after that famous battle royal (spectators included) with Roma.

Sixteen people, including 13 police, were injured, and ten detained for assault, after a mob tried to break into the referee's dressing-room. According to the British press, one man drew a pistol, but was promptly knocked down by two carabinieri. The mob was after the referee, who awarded a penalty to Roma, enabling them to equalise two minutes from time.

Police reinforcements (400 of them in all) eventually dispersed the stone throwers and got the referee away in a van after an hour-long siege. A further blow was the prompt action of the Italian Football League Disciplinary Committee who, apart from fining Juventus, declared Roma the winners by 2-0. This ended a crucial tactical battle between two Herraras.

La Juve just managed a feeble draw away from home against Bologna, to take them one point in front of Torino. The latter, after a disastrous start to the season (they were bottom or next to bottom of the league for five weeks before the short winter break) are without doubt the season's most improved side.

Before a poor crowd of 10,000, but with wingers Combin and Facchin much in evidence, they managed to smash two goals past Verona goalkeeper Piccoli in the first half, and one past the substitute 'keeper, Colombo, in the second. Battistoni of Verona conceded an own-goal in the 36th minute of the second half to give Torino their worthy 4-0 win.

Roma, who are still in the doldrums, drew 1-1 with Napoli in their derby match. One has little to compare with this bi-annual Roman football fiesta except perhaps a Tottenham-Arsenal or Celtic-Rangers fixture. Each year sees a new record, if not in the number of spectators (this year there was a full house of 80,000), then certainly in the amount of gate money. At the bottom of the first division, the position of Sampdoria becomes more and more disheartening. Their 1-0 away defeat against Palermo marked their third in a row. Atalanta lost 3-1 away to Vicenza, their most formidable bottom-of-the-table adversaries.

The result of that all-important "premier derby" between Inter and Milan at San Siro was 1-1.

This match was the 154th "derby of the little madonna" (*derbie della madonnina*). The records show, perhaps not very surprisingly, a reasonable parity between the two teams: Milan have won 59, Inter 55 with 40 draws. The record gate was last year (February 18, 1968), when some 68,000 paying spectators, from a total of 80,000 who saw the match, rid their pockets of over £100,000 for the pleasure of seeing both Milanese giants in action.

Their previous meeting was on November 3, when Milan pulled off a 1-0 win: a goal by Fogli (who had just come on as a substitute for Petrini) clinched the match in the 24th minute of the second half.

It is unfortunate that Cudicini (*pictured*) was unfit for the Milan-Celtic European Cup match: I had thought to draw a comparison between Simpson of Celtic and the old Italian campaigner, who is now 38 and has the best goalkeeping record this season —six goals conceded in 19 matches. There is no doubt that the experience of this courageous and agile man has contributed in large measure to Milan's success.

Heavily scarred around the face after many a football accident, he is as tough as they come: if he is fit for the second leg, Celtic are going to find it hard going to crack him. Permit me to place on record my personal admiration for this custodian; an admiration which I feel sure is shared by many of my journalist colleagues.

In conclusion I would like to follow up a piece by Walter Bartleman (*Evening Standard*, February 26, 1969): "Now that the ban on foreigners occupying the managerial chair has been lifted," says Bartleman, "both Juventus and Inter-Milan, out of the running for Italian League honours this season, are expected to be casting large-size baits in the direction of Britain.

"The names of England's Sir Alf Ramsey and Celtic manager Jock Stein have both been mentioned," he continues, "but if Juventus let their eyes travel towards Wales they would find in their former star John Charles one with whom they might enjoy a lot more luck."

Can *I* add that there is a strong rumour that Alec Stock was, in fact, the first British manager to be approached directly [by Gigi Peronace] at the end of last year, when Peronace knew the ban was about to be lifted. He asked Alec if he would like to come back to Roma and train the junior team. According to my reports Alec Stock replied that he had just signed his contract with Luton and was determined to prove himself there first.

ASSORTED NOVELTIES

ROCKET penalty shots ... Go-Go Rebound girls ... rebound walls around the pitch ... guaranteed 400 per cent better matches—these are some of the assorted novelties you may see in soccer soon. Or, at least, if a certain Joe B. Martin of Ontario, Canada, has his way (writes ANDREW DETTRE).

Operating as president of the "World Professional Superball Franchise Association", Joe B. Martin claims that the world superball league championship will start no later than March, 1970, under his new rules.

What is superball? What are his rules? Is it soccer, some form of crazy American hoopla or a gigantic hoax?

In his pamphlet called "The Modern Soccer Football Superball Game System Rules", Martin explains it all. In the introduction he stresses the point that soccer's rules have basically remained unchanged for 100 years. This fact, he says, has prevented soccer from being more popular than it actually is. And the limit, according to Joe, could be up to 80 per cent of the world's population, either participating or watching the game. If only they fell into line....

Conclusion

The inventor also claims that over the years he tried to get FIFA interested in his project but alas, Zurich remained cool. "I have finally come to the conclusion," says he, "that FIFA doesn't want the game to become more popular. If it became more popular there would be then a chance to create professional international associations and FIFA would lose its world-wide monopoly power...."

So Joe decided to go it alone by, as he says, putting all his time and money into an effort to change this strange apathy in FIFA House in downtown Zurich.

What he has come up with sounds impressive; a completely new system, rules and field layout which is "guaranteed to be over 400 per cent more interesting, exciting and entertaining, compared to the old game" (meaning, I presume, what we suffer under now).

The new rules, says Joe, create "six times more exciting shots on goal, six times as many exciting catches by the goalie, five times as many exciting goals, five times as many exciting long or short passes, twice as fast and six times as much action...." "... there are at least 140 exciting passes or tricks created by using the rebound wall, 120 exciting rebounds by the Go-Go Rebound Girls and many more smaller improvements. These all create more action which is hard to explain but this action you will like...."

Well, I am sure, for example, that I will like the look of the Go-Go Rebound Girls, even if they are not particularly skilled at their job; at any rate, they would enhance the decorum of a pitch better than a few sloppy ballboys. I am less sure about the others.

Being a man easily impressed by statistics, I am at a loss how Joe B. Martin figured out that six times as many shots and six times as many catches will eventually result in five times as many exciting goals. Even if his maths are correct, I find it a mild contradiction that five times as many short passes will make the game twice as fast or four times more exciting. But if I am wrong, then the Uruguayan and Argentinian teams are certainly on the right track.

I have no idea what the 140 new tricks are all about; the average player knows only a handful now, most of them used explicitly off the field, in contract negotiations.

But Joe doesn't stop halfway; he strongly advocates the use of hands in the superball game "to create many exciting stops, passes and punch shots. I find using the hands is one of the most important inventions in the modern soccer game," he says triumphantly.

How true. Even today, under the existing and obviously archaic rules, many players would agree with these sentiments and, whenever possible, use their hands to stop or pass the ball, even, occasionally, to deliver a punch.

Joe is undoubtedly a ladies' man. "It (superball) eliminates the ancient discrimination about the female not being able to play the greatest game in the world," says he. Well, I think the ladies are playing it all right, except that nobody has told them that it's called superball. Joe goes on: "By having girls in this game, it also adds more colour and sparkle."

Well, I don't know. Some coaches may find it a trifle hard to give their half-time pep-talk without using some down to earth epithets. I can't, for the life of me, visualise a distressed, prostrate coach saying ever so meekly to his malfunctioning Go-Go Rebound Girl:

"Mabel, do you think you can possibly kick at that little ball just once, provided of course you have nothing better to do? The boys would sure appreciate it. Man, I can promise you a special bonus of a keg of Arpège and a year's supply of Maidenform bra if we can pull this game out of the fire...."

But girls or no girls, Joe B. Martin is serious. He has compiled 22 rules for his superball, some of which do resemble today's rules. Others, however, represent what may be termed as novel departure from soccer.

There would be, for example, a rebound wall made of plywood, 3 ft. high, right around the pitch; the ball could rebound from there and remain playable, just as in ice-hockey. The teams would have four Rebound Girls. "Two would stand on top of the goal bar and one on each side of the goal posts, standing on a 20 in. wide platform, 16 ft. long on each side of the goal post, more or less." (Joe's words, not mine: if you can't quite picture the platforms, at least try to picture the girls.)

He goes on: "Rebound girls will be placed on opposite goals. The Rebound girl can rebound the ball with her hands, feet or any other part of her body (?) to give her team-mate another chance to shoot at the goal but they cannot catch or hold the ball...."

The suggested "rocket penalty" kick is taken from 22 yards; directly converted it's worth two goals, after a rebound only one. Joe doesn't say what happens if a rocket knocks the girls from the platform; presumably, it's no goal.

The ball can be touched by hands once at a time, when it is on the ground or "close to it". What is close and what is not, I guess, would be the subject of a brief, scientific discussion between players and the advocated two referees while 80 per cent of the world's population looks on.

According to Joe B. Martin, the World Professional Superball Franchise Association has already received 17 franchise applications, including three from London; the American counterpart has 28 applications.

Interest

He envisages the first world championship to include 22 starters, from 22 different countries. Showing little flair for originality in this respect, Joe suggests such fancy names as the London English, Paris French, Stockholm Swedes, Tel Aviv Israelis, Cairo Arabs (hope they don't clash in the final), Melbourne Australians, Peking Chinese (why not Pekinese?) and many others.

What, you may ask, is Joe's interest in this venture? Not much, really. Except that you will have to buy the franchise from him for a so far undisclosed sum.

So have a go-go at it, man, you Moscow Russians, Tokyo Japanese, Rome Italians and others; Joe says this type of competition will make peoples all over the world feel more friendly towards one another.

Who knows, he may be right; where the UNO, FIFA, Disneyland and others have all failed miserably, superball may succeed: to create peace on earth and lasting love among mankind.

And if you don't believe this, you're just a screwball who doesn't deserve a franchise to be part of this happy new world.

Leeds United centre-forward Mick Jones pictured in action against Hanover in a Fairs Cup match. The Hanover players are Breuer and Anders. (UPI)

CHANGES ARE NECESSARY

FAIRS CUP REVIEW by ARTHUR ROTMIL

AS the oft-criticised but also frequently overrated Fairs Cup tournament approaches the decisive stage this season, and with British fans in particular still showing a remarkably unyielding interest, the time has come to take a long, hard look at the whole set-up in more detail.

Having already backed and encouraged any extension of international contacts, let us make it quite clear that I am wholly in favour of this competition, but after a clinical analysis the only diagnosis I can advance is that the Fairs Cup within its present structure and idiosyncrasies will remain nothing more than a third-best contest for the also-rans, the has-beens and bystanders. It appears that in many cases these clubs have been merely thrown an extra bone by a benevolent FA to reward good behaviour rather than deeds, or at best to keep up the tradition of cities who annually stage industrial fairs. The principal points of criticism are as follows:

1. Whereas the main European Cup is a contest between the champions of European leagues to determine the champions of Europe and the Cup Winners affair a competition of the most successful cup fighters, and each demands an achievement on the field of play, the Fairs Cup entry is by nomination only and therefore for teams who have won nothing in their own countries (England are the sole exception, with its League Cup winners).

2. Several European associations have ignored the organisers' plea to enter their top teams in order of league placings. Thus for this season Holland for example nominated Dos Utrecht, who finished third from bottom in the league, and DWS Amsterdam who were ninth. Belgium entered Daring who only managed 11th place, from France came Lyon (12th), Czechoslovakia chose Slavia (8th), Rumania picked Rapid Bucharest (10th), West Germany named Hamburger SV (13th), while Yugoslavia selected OFK Belgrade who were saved from relegation only after a play-off! These are just a few examples, but in each case there were higher ranked teams whose claim to a Fairs Cup place could not be disputed.

3. The rule of one-team-per-city precludes the possibility of entering the strongest sides and this particularly affects centres like Budapest, London, Vienna, Prague, etc., who boast a concentration of top clubs.

4. The unequal representation between countries, nine of whom, including France and Belgium, were allowed four entrants, or Switzerland and Holland with three each, while such strong soccer nations as Hungary, Czechoslovakia or even Poland were confined to a single participant.

Concept

The departure from its original concept of staging matches between cities who organise industries' fairs, to further international relations, but most of all the diversity of interest as shown by the tremendous disparity in gates between Britain and the Continent is not helping this tournament to achieve an important status. In brief, while British clubs and players are falling over themselves to "get into Europe" the fans on the Continent who see enough international football in other tournaments like the Mitropa-Cup, the International Cup, Alpine-Cup and Balkan-Cup, plus numerous friendlies, and have more soccer variety on television, are not responding with the same enthusiasm. And who can blame them? To win the European Cup is glorious, to triumph in the Cup Winners Cup is something, but the Fairs Cup? Quite clearly, unless the rules and structure are changed, it will remain what it is: Just another exercise, a subterfuge for teams who missed the cream off the top of the home-made cake.

When this season's Third Round was completed, England were the only country still with two representatives. Leeds, lucky to scrape through in the previous rounds and not exactly renowned for goalscoring feats, woke up at last to crush Hanover by 5-1 at home and followed up with a fine 2-1 win in Germany. Newcastle, whose exploits are contributing to their greatest financial success in years, were fully extended by the old campaigners Zaragoza, so often the scourge of British teams, eight of whom—Glentoran, Dundee, Cardiff, Hearts, Dunfermline, Leeds, Everton and Aberdeen—they eliminated in the past. The Geordies lost 3-2 in Spain, but a 2-1 home win gave them the tie under the away-goals-double ruling.

Consolation for the Spaniards was provided by Atletico Bilbao who put out Eintracht Frankfurt (1-0 h; 1-1 a). Scotland's Glasgow Rangers had no trouble with the modest Dutch side DWS, winning 2-0 in Amsterdam, and then coasting to a 2-1 win at Ibrox Park. But the other Scottish contenders Hibernian fell to Hamburger SV, for after losing 0-1 away, a 2-1 score in Edinburgh edged them out on away goals. The tournament's giant-killers—as they were last season—Goeztepe of Turkey, fought bravely to overcome OFK Belgrade. Having lost 3-1 in Yugoslavia, the durable Turks scored twice inside the first quarter-hour to win 2-0 and qualified by virtue of their priceless away goal. Portugal's last hope Vitoria Setubal confirmed their cup-fighting qualities by dismissing Fiorentina, Italy's championship contenders. A 3-0 at home proved decisive and the 1-2 defeat in Florence had no bearing on the outcome of the tie.

The last quarter-final place went to Ujpest Dozsa, who found the Polish Army team Legia a much tougher proposition than expected. The Hungarians won rather luckily by 1-0 in Warsaw, but were two down at home at the interval before a great fight back squared the match and gave them the tie on a 3-2 aggregate.

FOCUS ON

Tottenham Hotspur

Ground: White Hart Lane. **Manager:** Bill Nicholson. **Trainer:** Cecil Poynton. **Coach:** Eddie Bailey. **Captain:** Alan Mullery. **Honours: Division I Champions:** 1951, 1961. **Division II Champions:** 1920, 1950. **FA Cup Winners:** 1901, 1921, 1961, 1962, 1967. **European Cup Winners Cup Winners:** 1963. **Colours:** White shirts, navy blue shorts. **Founded:** 1882.

by

PHILIP RISING

IT is unfortunate for the present White Hart Lane players that they should automatically be compared with the immortal Spurs team that achieved, among other things, the "double" back in 1961. This is grossly unfair, of course, because the Blanchflowers, Mackays and Whites have not only disappeared from Tottenham but most other clubs too.

"Spurs? They're not what they used to be," is the general cry, but it's difficult to envisage *any* club emulating the Tottenham team of the early 1960s. The Tottenham players of today deserve to be judged on their own merits—not continually measured against the heroes of a bygone era.

Nevertheless, once conditioned to success the fans expect a continual supply and Spurs, simply, have failed to produce the goods in recent years. They won the FA Cup in 1967, I concede, but only a League Championship victory will mark their re-emergence as a major force in English soccer.

Manager Bill Nicholson, a Tottenham servant for over 30 years, has searched high and low in an effort to find and purchase players of the necessary calibre. A crop of injuries have at times made his task more acute, but despite the vast financial resources behind him, this Yorkshireman has a record of being wise and sound in his investments.

Yet he has the courage to spend heavily, as he did when signing Roger Morgan from Queen's Park Rangers. Morgan was bought to strengthen a below-par forward line that too often leaned heavily on Jimmy Greaves and Alan Gilzean.

Greaves maintained his supreme opportunism but Jimmy has always been more effective when working alongside a strong centre-forward. Martin Chivers would have provided that support but for a long spell on the injury list with a ligament complaint. Mike England had a long spell in the number nine shirt but then the defence missed his power and composure.

With no Chivers and neither Jimmy Pearce nor David Jenkins the answer to the wing problems, Greaves worked a minor miracle on poor service. Morgan, who is at his best as an orthodox winger, is seen as the man who can create the openings for Greaves.

Certainly the Scarborough-born Nicholson must be looking to the day when Chivers can return to first team action to complete what would then be a Tottenham forward line much nearer the former standard.

Nicholson joined Spurs in 1936 from Northfleet as an inside-forward; yet he made his League debut as a left-back and subsequently became one of the country's leading attacking wing halves.

He was coach, scout and assistant manager at White Hart Lane before assuming control as manager in October 1958.

Goalkeeper **Pat Jennings**, a Northern Ireland international, joined Spurs from Watford in June 1964. Tall and agile with a safe pair of hands, he was born in Newry.

A double fracture of the leg, sustained against Leeds United in January, has put talented right-back **Joe Kinnear** out of action. An Eire international born in Dublin, he turned professional in February 1965 after two years a junior.

England international **Cyril Knowles** has recaptured his best form after a spell of uncertainty. Born in Fitzwilliam, he moved to Tottenham from Middlesbrough for a hefty fee in May 1964. He has four full caps.

Skipper **Alan Mullery** has maintained a fine Tottenham tradition at wing half. Signed from Fulham in March 1964, he has developed into an outstanding midfield worker, with an emphasis on attack. Born in Notting Hill, London, he possesses 12 full England caps.

Money well spent is the only possible verdict on the £90,000 Tottenham outlay for centre-half **Mike England** in August 1966. His command of the air and general solidity plugged a more than suspect defence. Greefield-born, a Welsh international signed from Blackburn Rovers. Also a most effective forward when the occasion demands.

Phil Beal is, in my opinion, one of England's most underrated players. A quietly efficient performer, either at full-back or wing-half, he is a consistent, tenacious defender. Born in Godstone, signed professional in January 1962.

JIMMY GREAVES. (AW)

Peter Collins has proved a bargain buy. Went to Spurs from Southern League Chelmsford City in January 1968. Made his League debut on the opening day of the current campaign. Born Chelmsford, a rapidly improving defensive wing-half or centre-half.

Both **David Jenkins**, who joined in an exchange deal that took Jimmy Robertson to Arsenal and **Jimmy Pearce**, have had extended runs in the first team—at centre-forward and outside-right—without solving any problems.

At inside-right the amazing **Jimmy Greaves** continues to astound as a goal-poacher. How England can ignore him, after 57 England caps, is a mystery. Born Dagenham, moved from Chelsea to Milan in June 1961 and then to Tottenham in November of the same year. Holds numerous goalscoring records.

Martin Chivers was born in Southampton and first hit the headlines with his home-town club. An England Under-23 international, he was for a short time the highest-priced player in Britain after Spurs paid £125,000 for him in January 1968.

Terry Venables has often come under fire from his own fans, but his recent performances have suggested, to me at least, that Terry has found more of his old confidence. Transferred from Chelsea in May 1966, born Dagenham, an England international at schoolboy, youth, amateur, Under-23 and full levels.

Once the regular centre-forward, **Alan Gilzean** now performs a variety of functions with commendable facility. Perth-born, a current Scotland international, he signed from Dundee in December 1964. A player who displays superbly neat touches and delicate flicks.

Now at outside-left is **Roger Morgan**, bought from QPR in February this year. A fast, tricky flank-man who can also fulfil a midfield role.

These are the men endowed with the task of putting Tottenham Hotspur back on top of the Football League. Personally I feel that more changes will be necessary before this target is reached.

English are harder and fitter . . .

IT was during that chaotic, snowbound week of early February that I first met Carlo Sartori. First impressions (this is always the same when I first meet a footballer) were: "Goodness, how young he looks compared with those newspaper photos and what I've seen of him on TV."

Perhaps in the case of Sartori this is hardly surprising, since Carlo got the "key of the door" on Monday, February 10 last. Another striking impression is his freckled Celtic skin and bright red hair. When I remarked on this he retorted that he must be a "throwback" since father (who died in 1954), mother and both brothers are dark.

Carlo may well be a Celtic "throwback"; he was born in the small North Italian village of Caderzone in the province of Trento in 1948 where, as in other parts of North Italy, one can find many Celtic and Teutonic types.

It is in this proud little *villaggio*, moreover that all his many relations still live ("In Caderzone we are nearly all related," he said), all his relations, that is apart from mum and his two brothers Celestino and Giuseppe (who both have thriving businesses in Manchester and Liverpool), and sister Rita, who is a secretary in Varese.

Father, according to Carlo, first came to seek his fortune in England in 1938, leaving mother and the kids behind. Father, a strong, hard-working man, came of a long line of mobile knife-grinders, and travelled to restaurants, many Italian and private houses in the Manchester area.

It cannot have been easy for Mrs. Sartori: the advent of the war meant an enforced separation from papa, which lasted eight years (until 1946 in fact). Then Signor Sartori returned to Italy to see his wife and three kids.

It was first of all dad's love of England, but also the difficulty of finding work in Italy during the post-war years that decided Signor Sartori on a return to England in the cold, uninviting winter of 1948, when little Carlo was only ten months old.

Six years later, in 1954 papa, much mourned by his family and all who knew him, was dead, leaving Carlo's brothers in charge both of the business, and of looking after dear old mum. Sister Rita had remained with relations in Italy.

A few years later Carlo, although diminutive in size, had become a star footballer in embryo. He is still fairly small, just topping 5 ft. 7 in. and weighing 10 st. 8 lb. Sartori junior was noted not so much for his speed but for his tremendous positional intelligence and ball-play. His teachers at the Catholic Academy of St. Malachy's realised that he was no great academic, and that his innate genius expressed itself on the football field.

"I THINK I WOULD BE BETTER INSIDE, A SLY ITALIAN GOAL-POACHER."

By the age of 15 he was playing as an inside forward for Manchester Boys, where he was marked out by United's chief scout, Jo Armstrong, and at 17 signed on as a professional for United. Soon he was playing regularly for the reserves as an inside-left. He tells me that he still regards himself as an inside forward, a position he held regularly with the second team. In the first team he has usually played on the wing, where modestly he does not regard himself as yet quite fast enough: "I think I would be better inside, a sly Italian goal-poacher," he said.

Every summer for the last few years Carlo has gone back to Caderzone to see his relatives, usually after touring with Manchester United's youth team in Switzerland. Whilst holidaying he watches as much football as possible, though his favourite teams, Milan, Juventus and Inter are somewhat predictably all North Italian.

"What are the principal differences between Italian and British football?" I enquired.

"Well," said Carlo, "don't take me as an expert, but from what I have seen I am sure we play much harder football in England. It is the English temperament, and perhaps the weather. I think that not only do we play harder but that we are fitter, and also that like English food we are more basic. A good Italian team could possibly get the same results

"A GOOD ITALIAN TEAM COULD POSSIBLY GET THE SAME RESULTS FROM HALF THE EFFORT."

from half the effort, and the Italians are more, much more, artistic, much better ball players."

He added: "But I was shocked when I first saw the Italian game—I nearly fell asleep, they were in my humble opinion so lazy. Perhaps because of our English style we players in England have frightened the rest of the world—although the Germans and the Dutch play much more like the English. It is our present tragedy that it is now very difficult for Manchester United to get a good international game as we are top-dogs, so every side wants to kill us!"

Carlo then made a few piercing comments on the World Club championship finals against Estudiantes: "Due to their disappointment in the World Cup, and that entirely different approach which all Latins have towards the game, the Argentinians, as well as most South American countries, really have it in for us. Of course, I only came on as a substitute for Law in the home game, but I can tell that in both legs they were brutal, and quite merited all the criticism the press gave them. I was especially disgusted when Nobby Stiles was sent off, and angered by the way they chopped, pulled and provoked our players. I also regard players spitting as an insult, not only to the opposing side but to football as a whole. No, until we can get round a table with these South American peoples and iron out the, how do you say, psychological differences between our respective games, I would not suggest we play them again.

"This," he continued, "is borne out by the fine game United had with Anderlecht, a team much closer in style of play to that of United. Although we were off form when we lost to them 3-1 away from home, I actually felt like a boxer after a good hard fight—proud to have lost to worthy opponents."

It was Sartori's away goal, readers will remember, which counted double, taking United into the next round of the European Cup against Rapid Vienna.

Sartori has now made 15 appearances with the first team, including two FA Cup games and an appearance in the European Cup (v. Anderlecht), he has three times been called on as a substitute—v. Tottenham (away), v. Estudiantes (home), and v. Arsenal (away). His ambition is to continue to play with Manchester United for many years to come.

"I am still a youngster," he said, "so in spite of all the money going around in Italy—where maybe one day I would like to play for, or perhaps even train, Inter, Juventus or Milan—I still think I can make my fortune here, where I was brought up. After all, I am in the company of some of the world's greatest players."

In the meantime, however, he has one even greater ambition, which we may see realised in the near future: to play for the Italian Under-23 team and later on for Italy. The eyes of Gigi Peronacci, we know, are already on Sartori, and various Italian teams in the top bracket like Juventus are keeping a close eye on Sartori's development.

"What about the enormous fee Juventus paid for Anastasi?" I asked, "would *no* amount of money take you away from Manchester?"

"Certainly not yet awhile," he replied, "anyway, I doubt if anyone would want to pay that amount of money for me yet!"

INTERVIEW

CHRIS WEST talks to CARLO SARTORI

"But was Anastasi worth it?" I asked.

"No, a definite no," he said, "it was *troppo*, really too much, and the best way to spoil a young footballer. I do not think a good team can be bought—like at Manchester, a good team must be created: but I must not be *too* adamant. I know they now pay big transfer fees in England, and I think most of the top-price players are worth it.

"From their cut they must think of the future years and I say if the Beatles, Rolling Stones, and all these singers and pop groups who cater for a mass market are worth it, then so certainly are footballers—especially as the footballer must be really fit and undergo rigorous discipline. But still," he added with a big smile, "Anastasi—that was a bit too much for any human being."

In a reply to an article about which I quoted from *Gazetta dello Sport* in a recent newsletter, Sartori made the following comments:

(a) "There has *never* been *any* pressure on me to take up British nationality.

(b) "I have never been considered as far as I know for any English representative side which would necessitate my taking British nationality, although I have had congratulations from some important people in English and Italian football on my game. I have told you I am not a mature player—the best of me is yet to come.

(c) "My English is perfect, as you can see, with a Manchester accent and all. My Italian is also near perfect and I speak it all the time at home, but to be really perfect I should need a month or so to practise it back in Italy. How can this newspaper say I speak very little English?

(d) "Worst of all, my beloved father is *dead* (the *Gazetta dello Sport* article said he lived with his father and two brothers) and I live with my *mother, not* my two brothers. I wish people would check up beforehand on these personal things. I am not yet a public figure, but if ever I am, I know I will be in the public eye, and I do not relish these inaccuracies. Now, can I tell you I would like to send my best wishes to all my friends in Italy, but especially to my uncles, aunts and cousins in Caderzone: I hope, God willing, that I shall see them again in the summer."

NOBBY STILES. (A)

"IF ALL THESE SINGERS AND POP GROUPS WHO CATER FOR A MASS MARKET ARE WORTH IT THEN SO CERTAINLY ARE FOOTBALLERS."

Chelsea's Peter Osgood scores his second goal against Stoke City in the fifth round FA Cup match at Stamford Bridge. (UPI)

Looking at Soccer

FRANCE FOOTBALL'S annual poll to decide the European Footballer of the Year was recently and pungently criticised. As the writer who has for many years now cast the vote for Britain, I feel the method is indeed far from perfect; but above all, because it is calculated by the year, rather than the season. Soccer, after all, is essentially a seasonal rather than an annual thing, and to calculate the performance of a footballer over an entire year leads to positive schizophrenic difficulties.

The latest Footballer of the Year was, as we know, George Best. By an irony, I voted for him as No. 1 last year, but not at all this year, not even in the first five. If, on the other hand, I had been called upon to vote at the end of last *season*, then I think I should certainly have chosen Best, after his decisively brilliant performance in the final of the European Cup.

This, in fact, is what I believe most of the European journalists who voted for Best did; they assessed him on the basis of what he did last season, which may be sensible and logical up to a point, but is hardly the way to select a footballer of the *year*.

This season, I would submit, has not been an especially distinguished one for Best, despite the fact that he remains one of the world's most talented and dangerous forwards. One must, after all, take serious account of what a player does at the very apex of the game; in a World Cup or, as in the present case, in the World Club Final.

Best, in the two matches for Manchester United against Estudiantes, did little or nothing. I saw the match in Buenos Aires in which, quite excusably — and by his own admission — he steered clear of the conflict, after he had realised that to do so would result in almost certain injury. At Old Trafford, again by his own admission, he had a poor match; one in which he was ultimately sent off the field for the kind of retaliatory foul into which Estudiantes had doubtless hoped to provoke him. No, after two such flaccid performances, I was certainly not able to choose Best.

Is it, then, practicable to choose a Footballer of the Season? From one point of view, it manifestly isn't. "Footballer of the Season" somehow sounds quite wrong, whereas Footballer of the Year has a ringing, downright, comprehensive tone about it. The English Football Writers' Association seem to have achieved the best of both worlds, choosing *their* Footballer of the Year round about the time of the Cup Final, which is normally in early May.

Something of the kind might be the answer to the present problem, except that the voting would have to take place rather later, to accommodate the various important tournaments which tend, now, to take place in early summer. Perhaps *France Football* could organise its poll in July or August, even in early September—when the season, and its concomitant interest, was well and truly under way again.

WAILING

There was, I understand, a degree of wailing and gnashing of teeth in Rome when, recently in the Sunday Times, *I set out two potential divisions of a European League, without including a Roman club among the 40 teams. I also had a very rude letter from a young Italian studying in England, and evidently unaware of my own long and intimate connection with his own country—and its football—telling me I would be "considered a fool" for putting in so many English teams, and putting Internazionale in the Second Division.*

It all goes to emphasise the immense, initial difficulties of choosing who should, and who shouldn't, be in a European League. Inevitably one has to use two standards of judgement; one, the performance of a club over the years, and two, its economic capacity. My friend and colleague Alberto Marchesi, of the *Corriere del lo Sport* of Rome, pointed out to me that Roma have won the Inter Cities Fairs

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YEAR OR SEASON?

Cup, which is true enough. In a sense, it does seem insane not to have a great city like Rome included in a European League; yet Roma, over the seasons, do not remotely match in performance a team such as Bologna or Fiorentina, let alone Inter, Juventus or Milan. They haven't won the Italian Championship for nearly 30 years.

It may be that the great showman, Helenio Herrera, can do something for them over the next couple of seasons, but if he does, he will be the first

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

manager to succeed in the Constantinople of passion and intrigue. Much though one would regret losing the Stadio Olimpico to a European League, it does seem to me that one, distant success in a Fairs Cup which wasn't nearly the competitive tournament it is today, constitutes an insufficient title for Roma's inclusion; at least for the moment.

REALISTIC

A few weeks ago, when I was covering the match between Queen's Park Rangers and Everton, I bought tickets in the grandstand for my wife, my elder son, and his school friend. They cost £1 each; expensive but realistic, I suppose one might say. All the more expensive when two of the three came back chilled to the marrow and went down with an attack of flu. The bitter wind, they said, howled through the new stand, and made it a penance to sit in.

So we see that Queen's Park Rangers, with all the myriad mistakes of a half-century's stadium building to draw on and avoid for themselves, have created a grandstand fit for Eskimos to live in. I know very well that my wife—and goodness knows how many other wives—will never go there again in the depths of winter. Yet almost concurrently, one hears that Burnley are planning a half-a-million pound development of their ground at Turf Moor with—as Jimmy Adamson, their coach, cheerfully assured me—heated grandstands!

The infra-red method of heating has been in use and available for years. Surely it is not beyond the wits of modern architects to design grandstands which do not place a premium on fortitude.

IMPLICIT

If ever there was a dammably silly rule—the four steps fiasco aside—it must surely be that of "played onside". There is a paradox implicit in its very existence, for to be played onside a footballer must, in the first place, be onside, and you are asking the finest of razor-sharp judgements by a referee when you demand that he judge whether the man was off or on.

I suppose the roots of this peculiar law have something to do with a moralistic wish that a defender should not be able to have his cake and eat it, that if, for example, he turns round and slips a careless pass back to his goalkeeper, not having noticed a lurking forward, he should pay the penalty.

Recently in the Chelsea-Stoke cup-tie at Stamford Bridge, there was a good if depressing example of how the law works, and the controversy it breeds. A half-hit shot by a Chelsea player bounced off a Stoke defender and ran to Osgood, standing unmarked on the left of the goal area. Osgood calmly controlled the ball, and steered it judiciously past Gordon Banks. Stoke, who had seen that the linesman had his flag up, protested vehemently but unavailingly.

Afterwards, I had a friendly disagreement with Gordon Banks, who insisted that since the flag was up, Osgood must have been offside. I pointed out two things. First, that the linesman's duty is merely to indicate to the referee whether the player is in an offside position. He may not be interfering with the play; or he may, as in this instance, be played onside. Secondly, as I have suggested above, that to be played onside, the man *must* have been onside in the first place.

But surely it is time that this iniquitous rule was done away with.

The first clash of the Morgan twins—left is Roger, the £110,000 Tottenham Hotspur acquisition, right is Ian who remains at Loftus Road. In the background can be seen the new Rangers' stand . . . which Brian Glanville comments upon. (UPI)

THIS ENGLAND

by Gordon Jeffery

Luck should be applied

EVEN with a good British representation in the quarter-finals of the European Champions Cup and the European Cup Winners Cup this season, I find it difficult to generate much enthusiasm for either competition this "phoney" year. Most of the quarter-finals are unplayed as I write. If they have fared well for British clubs and the semi-final draw for the Champions Cup offers the prospect of a Celtic-Manchester United final, the atmosphere may warm up beyond what UEFA deserve.

As it is, in the quarter-finals of the Champions Cup there was the difference in standards between clubs as Milan and Celtic in the one tie and Spartak Trnava and AEK Athens in another such that one or the other of two potential champions, Celtic and Milan, had to be eliminated before the semi-final, whereas one of the other of Trnava and AEK Athens were certain of reaching the last four.

I am not unhappy about the "luck of the draw" coming into the European club competitions. Indeed, for football's sake if not for the finances of the competing clubs, I would prefer that it was fully applied with luck giving the home advantage to the first club drawn of each tie and no artificial second legs. A draw would, of course, earn a replay on the ground of the original visiting club. BUT this season UEFA had themselves rejected the original draw and refashioned it to suit themselves. It is thus as much deliberate as unfortunate that disparity exists at the quarter-final stages.

It was, I suppose, no worse than unfortunate that in the Cup Winners Cup competition Barcelona have gained a semi-final place that even their best friends would be hard pressed to justify on grounds of merit. Barcelona won the first leg at Barcelona by only the odd goal in five against Lynn Oslo but the climatic conditions during February and March are against the playing of football in Norway, so the little Norwegian club had to elect to play the second leg also in Barcelona—it was drawn 2-2.

It is a situation that can be justified on financial grounds, but rules out considerations of every entrant having the same sporting chance of victory. And it is disturbing that in the Fairs Cup the completion of the one-eighth round tie between such clubs as Legia Warsaw and Ujpest Dozsa can be delayed until the weather is kinder for football in Poland and Hungary. If the Fairs Cup can do this in respect of their one-eighth round stage, why cannot the other two competitions in respect of their *later* stage?

The ultimate answer is that the interests of the professional clubs do really call the tune in respect of the Champions and Cup Winners Cup competitions. . . .

GLORIOUS

The Legia Warsaw-Ujpest tie in the Fairs Cup has a particular interest for English fans because the winner will have to meet Leeds United in the quarter-final. Leeds gained their quarter-final place in their defence of the Fairs Cup trophy when they followed their first-leg 5-1 win over the West German club, Hanover, by winning again (2-1) in the away leg. It was the beginning of a glorious fortnight for the Yorkshire club.

They returned to an England that was soon so gripped in snow and ice that every Fifth Round FA Cup tie and First Division match due to be played the following Saturday was postponed. Leeds, of course, had lost interest in the Cup—eliminated by Sheffield Wednesday who had themselves, in their turn, been eliminated by Birmingham City. They had an accentuated interest in the Football League championship in which, with a match in hand, they were one point behind Liverpool.

The following Wednesday, when four of the Cup ties were also played but those at Blackburn, Leicester and Mansfield again postponed, Leeds worked to get their pitch fit to play a fixture against Ipswich originally scheduled for Eastertide. Maybe the cold weather would mean a lower attendance but Leeds are keen to avoid the near-end-of-season congestion of fixtures that had plagued them in recent seasons. The match went on and two goals from Rod Belfitt and Mick Jones without reply from Ipswich brought two points to Leeds—and the leadership of the First Division.

COVERED

The weather remained bad, if anything worsening towards the next weekend when five of the 11 First Division matches were postponed. Leeds' match would certainly have been postponed except that the club wanted it played. They covered the Elland Road pitch with tons of straw, co-operated with the local employment office to muster all available labour for work on the pitch, enlisted volunteers, got permission to postpone the kick-off from 3 p.m. to 3.15—every minute obviously helped. The pitch was fit for play—indeed as millions saw later that evening on television, it presented a level playing surface, which is more than can be said about many pitches around the world when the weather is ideal.

The match was against Chelsea, so often a club that have crossed Leeds' path with disappointing results for the Northerners in recent seasons. Chelsea either deliberately chose to play with considerable emphasis on defence out of respect for Leeds' ability, or did so knowing that they had to play without Eddie McCreadie and young Stewart Houston and felt that some assistance from upfield players like Charlie Cooke and Bobby Tambling would be required. Chelsea did have their new signing from Fulham, John Dempsey, and he showed up well in what was a resolute Chelsea defence, playing with considerable intelligence and confidence.

NEGATED

Four seasons, three seasons, two seasons ago Leeds would have tried to batter their way through such a defence. They might have succeeded—given luck or a rush of blood to an opponent's head; or they might have seen all their own pressure negated by Chelsea snatching a breakaway goal or even, with players like Osgood around, a couple of them.

This present-day Leeds side does not falter, and when the chance of a goal came, Peter Lorimer seized it to win the match for them—1-0. And at the end they immediately gained

Nottingham Forest, fighting to avoid relegation, achieved some notable performances away from home with a draw at Arsenal and victory at Liverpool. Here John Barnwell tackles Arsenal winger Jimmy Robertson at Highbury. (A)

Billy Bremner, captain of Leeds United and architect of their championship challenge. (A)

a further unplanned reward for their efforts in playing the match—their later kick-off meant that they learned the result of Liverpool's match as they walked off the pitch: Liverpool 0, Nottingham Forest 2.

Nottingham Forest at that time where kept from the bottom of the table only by Coventry City and the unlucky Queen's Park Rangers. The Midland club had acquired a new manager—Matt Gillies from nearby Leicester City, and he had acquired a new player—Ronnie Rees from West Bromwich Albion. Rees started the movement that brought a goal in the fifth minute for Forest and set Liverpool on the slippery slope to their first home League defeat of the season. Easy, of course, to find an explanation in that "slippery" was literal as well as metaphorical, but Liverpool's manager Bill Shankly is not likely to rely on that! Some players, he commented after the match, played excellently on the surface. If some can, all can.

It is as simple as that—of course. Players, even more *teams*, must play in the manner that brings the best results from the playing conditions and, providing that the surface of the pitch is reasonably smooth, the result will generally reflect the comparative merit of the two sides *on the day*.

The end of the day thus left Leeds three points clear of Liverpool at the top of the First Division. Their manager, Don Revie, fully aware of all Leeds' disappointments over the past four seasons, guardedly says that he will cheer if Leeds are still on top on April 19. He may, in fact, have to wait a little longer, since although that is the official end of the Football League season—earlier than usual to allow the British Home Tournament to be staged before the close-season tours begin—clubs suffering from a surfeit of postponed fixtures may expect to play after April 19. The Football League, one understands, have already hinted that this will be possible, but one hopes that there is no nonsense about clubs claiming the services of players wanted, not only by the Football Association for duty with England (that is a right), but also by the Scottish, Irish and Welsh FAs.

Leeds' record since they won the Second Championship in the season 1963-64 is a remarkable one. In terms of domestic football it runs:

	FA CUP	First Div. FL	FL CUP
1964-65:	Final — lost 1-2 during extra time to Liverpool	2nd on goal average to Manchester United	3rd Round lost to Aston Villa
1965-66:	4th Round lost 0-1 to Chelsea	2nd to Liverpool	3rd Round lost to WBA
1966-67:	Semi-Final—lost 0-1 to Chelsea	4th	4th Round lost to West Ham
1967-68:	Semi-Final—lost 0-1 to Everton	4th	FINAL — beat Arsenal 1-0

Leeds' splendid performance in reaching the Cup Final and only failing on goal average to win the Championship in the first season after their return to the First Division fully justified a place in the Fairs Cup for the season 1965-66. In that, and the following two seasons, Leeds United turned in what must rate amongst the most consistent of all British club efforts in European competitive football. In that first season they gained aggregate victories over Torino, Leipzig, Valencia and Ujpest Dozsa before losing a play-off against Real Zaragoza in the semi-final. One season later they beat DWS Amsterdam, Valencia, Bologna (helped by the toss of the coin) and Valencia before losing to Dynamo Zagreb in the Final. Then, last season they beat Spora Luxembourg, Partisan Belgrade, Hibernian, Rangers, Dundee and, in the delayed Final, Ferencvaros.

The club's progress in the Fairs Cup (and to the semi-final stages of the FA Cup the past two seasons) has meant a continual mental and physical strain on the players and their trainers and manager, but it has also meant that the Second Division club of but five years ago has very quickly matured into England's most consistent club side over the past four and a bit seasons.

POINTS

At the start of this season Manchester United, the champions in 1964-65 and in 1966-67, had a slightly better points record (four of them) than Leeds since the latter's return to the First Division. Liverpool, on the other hand, were 13 points behind Leeds. Now with this season's matches to February 15 added the comparative records below:

Consistency such as Leeds' deserves more than twice being the runners-up and twice the fourth-placed club. Liverpool are not likely again to surrender both home points as they did against Nottingham Forest, and although they and Everton are both, as I write, still also concerned with the FA Cup, the two Liverpool clubs and the Arsenal will continue to chase Leeds towards the post.

No club has earned the Football League Championship more than Leeds, however; no entry to the European Champions Cup could be more merited. I hope, and expect, that they will add the FL trophy this season to last season's Fairs Cup and League Cup.

	Home					Away					
	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leeds Un.	62	14	8	192	69	31	24	29	103	104	224
(This season)	14	3	0	34	7	6	5	2	15	14	48
Total	**76**	**17**	**8**	**226**	**76**	**37**	**29**	**31**	**118**	**118**	**272**
Liverpool	58	16	10	181	82	26	27	31	100	112	211
(This season)	14	2	1	30	9	6	3	4	19	9	45
Total	**72**	**18**	**11**	**211**	**91**	**32**	**30**	**35**	**119**	**121**	**256**
Manchester Un. ...	60	18	6	202	67	32	26	26	144	131	228
(This season)	7	4	2	18	11	1	5	9	15	28	25
Total	**67**	**22**	**8**	**220**	**78**	**33**	**31**	**35**	**159**	**159**	**253**

(This season Manchester United have played two matches fewer than Leeds and Liverpool.)

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The Month Ahead — previewed by ERIC BATTY — is an important one

Scotland face tough task

WORLD Cup matches and preparations for World Cup matches dominate this month's programme which is one of the heaviest of the year. April 16 is a particularly vital day with four official matches, three of which are critical.

The most important of all is the Scotland-West Germany clash at Hampden Park and could quite conceivably be a real battle in every sense. This is one which Scotland *must* win and which the Germans cannot afford to lose. The new Scottish side which has evolved over recent months is clearly a better all round combination than most teams we have seen from north of the border.

Traditionally the Scots do well against England but have seldom been really convincing against good foreign opposition. Having hammered Cyprus in Nicosia where the Germans struggled for a late 1-0 win, the Scots are probably the favourites and this above all else must have been the vital factor behind Helmut Schön's reputed decision to obtain the services of Karl-Heinz Schnellinger and Helmut Haller.

Schnellinger would be an improvement on almost any team in the world, but Haller's value has always seemed somewhat dubious to me. Evenly balanced, both sides have plenty of talent and an abundance of determination. With so much at stake it seems quite possible that this could be one that ends in a brawl.

On the same day the Portugal-Switzerland, Greece - Rumania argument should be clarified a little. Following the surprise 4-2 win by Greece over Portugal all four teams stand level after two matches and the winners in the two battles—Portugal and Greece being the home teams must be favourites. All four teams are far better at home than they are away and perhaps one away win will prove to be decisive in the final analysis.

2	*Yugoslavia v. Holland*	*Belgrade*
6	*Czechoslovakia v. Bulgaria*	*Prague*
6	*Portugal v. Mexico*	*Lisbon*
6	*Brazil v. Peru*	*Porto Alegro*
9	*Brazil v. Peru*	*Rio de Janeiro*
16	*Holland v. Czechoslovakia*	*Rotterdam*
16	*East Germany v. Wales**	*Leipzig*
16	*Portugal v. Switzerland**	*Lisbon*
16	*Greece v. Rumania**	*Athens*
16	*Scotland v. West Germany**	*Glasgow*
16	*Belgium v. Mexico*	*Brussels*
19	*Cyprus v. Austria**	*Nicosia*
20	*Poland v. Luxembourg**	*Warsaw*
23	*Spain v. Mexico*	*Seville*
23	*Bulgaria v. Luxembourg**	*Sofia*
30	*Spain v. Yugoslavia**	*Barcelona*

*—World Cup matches.

Reverse

After the unexpected reverse in Athens the Portuguese selector Dr. Antunes and coach Otto Gloria organised a trial match to unearth new talent. A North v. South for players under the age of 23 gave 30 players an opportunity but no one was any wiser after this match than they had been before.

Spain's 2-1 defeat in Liege makes it certain that Spanish fans will have no direct interest in the Mundial 70 and for this month's matches against Mexico and Yugoslavia the Spanish squad will probably be under new management. Who the new boss will be is problematical for not one of the world's top manager-coaches would even contemplate a full time job with a national team.

Only in Russia and probably North Korea can the national coach demand that his players be made available for months on end and unless a coach has regular and frequent contact with his players it is impossible to work. Elsewhere national team bosses have to rely on other people doing their job for them by preparing the stars. Artigas (CF Barcelona) and Munoz (Real Madrid) are the most popular names mentioned in connection with finding a successor for Dr. Eduardo Toba but they are not going to accept the job full-time.

Belgium's success over Spain has made the task of Yugoslav boss Rajko Mitic doubly difficult. Had Spain taken even one point from Liege, it would have given the Yugoslavs an even chance but now they must win every one of their outstanding matches—away to Finland, away to Spain and at home to Belgium. It is hardly likely that the Spaniards will want to do Belgium any favours but they have a good record in Barcelona. If the Yugoslav's pass this test they might still reach Mexico and with Mitic calling up reinforcements from the army (whose players are not usually released) and from foreign clubs it is just conceivable.

Czechoslovakia have two matches scheduled at home to Bulgaria and away to Holland. All three teams have vital World Cup dates in the near future and it will be method and application which will be looked for in these preparatory games rather than just results. Bulgaria and their rivals Poland should both pick up easy points from Luxembourg this month while the Czechs still optimistic if national coach Josef Marko is taken as the guide have a big date a month later with Hungary. Marko's optimism stems very largely from the fact that the Czechs seem to have developed a hoodoo over the Hungarians in recent years.

Interest in the East Germany-Wales clash depends very much on the result of the Italians' visit to Leipzig in March. If the Italians managed to take at least one point then the visit of Wales takes on a very friendly complexion but if Italy were beaten then this becomes a vital game for the Germans. Much improved during the sixties, largely due to the work of Hungarian coach Karoly Soos, the Germans are a match for anyone on their own soil but are hardly likely to prevent Italy from claiming a place in the final rounds in Mexico.

The Brazilians begin their 1970 campaign in earnest this month with two home matches against Peru. These games mark the debut of the new selector Joao Saldanha, the 58-year-old former radio and TV football commentator.

Terry Hennessey, the Nottingham Forest skipper, could prove a key player for Wales in their forthcoming World Cup matches. (A)

Hampden attracts attention

West German Newsletter from **ARTHUR ROTMIL**

THE attention of millions of German soccer fans gripped by the fierce battles for honours and against relegation in the Bundesliga is now gradually diverted towards the national side's vital World Cup qualifying clash with Scotland at Hampden Park on April 16.

Glasgow, the Mecca of Scottish football, has been the scene of German clubs' greatest triumphs. Here in 1960 Eintracht Frankfurt demolished Rangers by 6-3—after winning 6-1 at home—to reach and play that unforgettable European Cup final against Real Madrid. Here again, six years later, Borussia Dortmund beat Liverpool 2-1 to become the first German side to claim a major European trophy—the Cup-Winners' Cup. Can the national team add yet another chapter of glory to their soccer history?

Unless the game is drawn, one record is bound to go. The Germans have never lost a World Cup qualifying tie and only once did they concede more than one goal in a match, in this formidable record:

P	W	D	L	F	A
18	16	2	0	60	12

Here are the details: For the finals of 1934—v. Luxembourg 9-1; 1938—v. Finland 2-0, v. Estonia 4-1, v. Sweden 5-0; 1954—v. Norway 5-1 and 1-1, v. Saarland 3-0 and 3-1; 1962—v. Northern Ireland 4-3 and 2-1, v. Greece 3-0 and 2-1; 1966—v. Sweden 1-1 and 2-1, v. Cyprus 5-0 and 6-0; 1970—v. Austria 2-0, v. Cyprus 1-0. Note that for the 1958 series they did not have to qualify as they were defending champions.

On the other hand, the Germans have never beaten Scotland in a full international having played four times as follows:

1936—Glasgow—Scotland 2 Germany 0.
1957—Stuttgart—Scotland 3 West Germany 1.
1959—Glasgow—Scotland 3 West Germany 2.
1960—Hannover—Scotland 2 West Germany 2.

But there is simply no comparison between their World Cup achievements. The Germans who always managed to qualify for the finals won the World Cup in 1954, were finalists in 1966, third in 1934, fourth in 1958 and quarter-finalists in 1962. Their record in the actual finals is second in the world only to Brazil. Scotland failed to qualify in 1950, 1962 and 1966, while in 1954 they lost 1-0 to Austria and were crushed 7-0 by Uruguay. In 1958 the Scots again failed miserably to win any of their group matches losing 3-2 to Paraguay, by 2-1 to France and drawing 1-1 with Yugoslavia.

Recent form shows that the Germans were only beaten once in their last 12 matches, ten of which were away from home; Scotland suffered their last defeat seven games ago in October 1967 at Belfast to Northern Ireland and won the last three meetings, though against modest opposition Denmark, Austria and Cyprus. But it is rank foolish to compare West Germany's laborious 1-0 in Cyprus with the Scots' 5-0 victory over there. The Germans were over confident and hampered by the gravel and sand-covered bone hard pitch, while Scotland benefited from rain which made the ground playable and were already warned by the German experience. The absence through injury of the midfield axis Beckenbauer-Netzer was another major factor.

At Hampden the Scots must attack to gain a victory whilst the visitors will be content to draw and hope to settle it at home in October. But, but . . . there is still Scotland's visit to Austria in November to come! The Germans have world class defenders in Vogts, Schulz and Weber but above all Franz Beckenbauer, unquestionably the greatest all-rounder in the world, equally superb as a sweeper, in midfield or up front. Thus a low-scoring draw seems a logical conclusion.

On the domestic scene, in conditions under which no game in Britain would even be considered—ankle-deep snow, arctic winds and ice-rink pitches—seven out of eight second round Cup-ties were duly staged. Among the six home wins, most surprising was Werder Bremen's crushing 5-0 win over Eintracht Brunswick whose usually reliable defence missed the injured Bäse but even the substitution of national 'keeper Wolter (after 0-3) failed to stop the rout. Bayern, who forced 24-3 corners, could thank Ohlhauser whose goal assisted by Müller five minutes from time dismissed Arminia Hannover. Hasebrink was also the only scorer when Kaiserslautern put out Eintracht Frankfurt. More decisive were Schalke's 3-1 over giant killers Alsenborn, Alemannia Aachen's 2-0 against Preussen Münster and Hamburger SV's who drew the largest attendance of 19,000 when defeating Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach by 2-0 after extra time with goals from Hans Schulz and inevitably Uwe Seeler. The only drawn game was Hannover's 2-2 with VfB Stuttgart, also after extra time.

Siegfried Held, a probable selection for West Germany against Scotland. (Met)

In the Bundesliga, Bayern's sticky patch of seven games without a win ended precisely with the return of their and the league's top scorer Gerd Müller. Playing in his first match after the 2-months suspension, Müller promptly scored both goals in the 2-1 victory over Hertha in Berlin, and just to prove it was no fluke "Mister Europacup" as he is called here, also hammered the only goal by which Bayern knocked Offenbach out of the Cup in the first round, three days later.

Losing ground were Borussia Mönchen-Gladbach whose national full-back Bertie Vogts set a new Bundesliga record by making 123 consecutive appearances and Hamburger SV for whom Uwe Seeler has now played in over 700 games.

In the limelight, the country's top goalkeepers: Bayern's Sepp Maier who at last saved his first penalty—at the 20th attempt. The fact that the taker, Pohlschmidt of Schalke, missed five times out of eight, does not disturb Maier in the least. Brunswick's Horst Wolter enjoyed a spell of 619 minutes unbeaten; Cologne's Yugoslav-born Milutin Soskic broke his leg for the second time in less than a year.

THE Hungarian football warriors returned home from South America a couple of weeks before the start of the championship, proudly displaying their off-season suntan and, reluctantly, are getting acclimatised to the rigours of a Central European winter. The "dual-tours" system was moderately successful, most "possibles" had several games in representative colours, and now the coaches have clearer ideas of who are good enough for further selection.

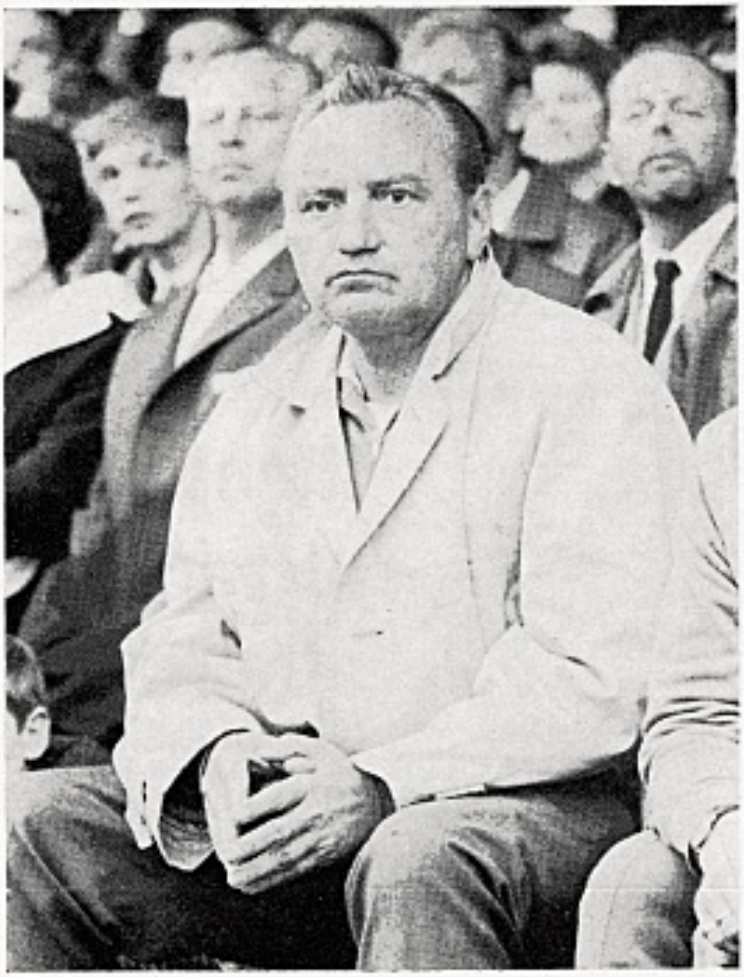
Surprisingly, the League eleven had a better trip. They won five of their matches, drew twice and lost only the last game against Leon. This setback was partly due to the absence of Meszoly and Menczel, the two Vasas players, who had to leave the party a few days earlier in order to join their club for a Mitropa Cup match at Graz.

The first four results and goalscorers were given in our March issue; here are the details of the second half of the tour: v. Spartak Trnava 4-1 (Zambo 2, Branikovits, Szoke); v. Vera Cruz 4-1 (Branikovits, Sarkozi, Szoke, Menczel); v. El Salvador 3-1 (Sarkozi two, Menczel); v. Leon 0-3.

Dr. Karoly Lakat, who was in charge of the party, was "highly satisfied" with the results and the behaviour of the boys. He specially mentioned five players—Szentmihalyi, Meszoly, Menczel, Szalai and Branikovits, who excelled themselves, and are good enough for first-team duty.

HUNGARIAN NEWS

SOOS SLATES HIS SQUAD



LESLIE VERNON

The full international squad did not have a particularly happy time. During a carefully planned, not too exhausting journey, they played only against moderate opposition, consequently the balance sheet is not impressive—one win, four draws!

I have already mentioned in this column the draw at Sao Paulo (2-2) against the local team—not too depressing considering the long journey, unaccustomed heat, etc. The next game was played at Belo Horizonte where, in front of 80,000 people, Atletic Mineiros held the mighty Magyars to yet another 2-2 draw. Solymosi scored from a free-kick early on, then Farkas made the half-time score 2-0. The second period was all Brazil, and Amauri and Lola equalised. Albert was sent off for arguing after the Lola goal (66 minutes) which, he claimed, should have been disallowed for off-side.

The third game in Brazil was another high-scoring draw, 3-3 (Nagy, Albert, Bene) v. Recife—good for football, but not very flattering for an international defence.

The next match at Casablanca resulted in the solitary win, when facing the national team of Morocco. The score, 4-1 (Bene, Goroes, Dunai, Pancsics) and according to the local press there, the Hungarians played quite well, but they are not as good as they used to be, when Puskas.... Where have I heard that song before?

Unbeaten, but not over-elated, the squad travelled to Lyon, where a mixed French XI of "A" and under-23 internationals scored twice against them to level goals by Albert and Rakosi. Five matches with a goal average of 13-10! Not the stuff that World Cup qualifiers are made of.

No wonder team manager, Karoly Soos (*pictured, Met*) was in a grim mood in the arrival lounge of the Budapest airport. "I am not satisfied with a single feature of the whole enterprise," he said. "We should have won two of the three matches we played in Brazil. After all, these were mediocre teams without any stars. What can we expect if we have to play Pelé and Co.? Our defensive play is in dire need of complete reorganisation. A Hungarian national rearguard should not concede three goals in Recife!

"I have tried several defensive formations—none of them were successful, our full-backs are too slow, their heading ability is not up to international class. Fater and Bicskei, the two goalkeepers, were also hesitant and unreliable. Nosko (Ujpesti Dozsa) was the only one who played consistently well in defence. I cannot complain about the midfield players or the strikers, but we still have problems on the wings. Fazekas is not quite ready, and Farkas does not like playing on the left flank.

"I will have a long talk with Lakat, and then I will pick a new squad for the spring. In April, we are playing two games in Porto Alegro, and these matches will serve as dress rehearsals for the forthcoming vital World Cup qualifying clashes."

I could console Mr. Soos by saying that these overseas jaunts are not really significant. But the sad truth is that Hungarian football does need shaking up—there is something wrong with the whole set-up, and one can only pose the questions, but finding the right answers is not so easy.

Indeed, during the last few weeks, a great debate has been going on in the press concerning the ills of the No. 1 national sport. This welcome argument was sparked off by a courageous article, which appeared in the sports daily, *Nepsport*, and was written by Paul Borbely.

"Let us wipe the slate clean," was Borbely's slogan, and he demands a re-think on several issues which were previously taboo in the Hungarian press.

Should we have open professionalism instead of the present shamateurism?

Have the star players got too much power? These were only the most important questions raised in this remarkable outburst of honest indignation, but the position of coaches, club officials, refereeing, etc., were also mentioned. Now that the lid is blown off the dustbin, everybody is eager to voice his opinions on these subjects, and many people have offered constructive solutions.

This is a very, very difficult dilemma, and I do hope that the people in charge will come up with the right answers, because the future of Hungarian football might depend on this one decision.

Incidentally, Vasas won that Mitropa Cup match at Graz, 2-1, and are now in the quarter-finals, where they will play Red Star Belgrade, the Djasits team.

The referee?

Policeman and Judge?

MUCH has been written in recent years about referees and the problems which arise when foul play is on the increase and refereeing standards appear to be falling. I am as much interested in this aspect of the game as anyone, perhaps even more than most, for I am aware that the very future of the game is in jeopardy.

It is most unfortunate that everyone connected officially with referees and refereeing is jealously trying to retain the supreme power with which they are now invested. Any attempt to query or disprove a referee's report is blandly waved aside by FA Disciplinary Commissions who pledge their faith in the maxim that the referee is always right and stick to this view regardless.

Recognising that former referees will always ally themselves with contemporary officials whenever the authority of the referee appears to be challenged, it was no surprise to me that our Minister for Sport, Mr. Dennis Howell, should be critical of the admission in evidence of films of football matches. To accept films or expert witnesses or independent views of any kind is to undermine the authority of the referee!

It is clear to me that in criticising the admission of film as evidence, Mr. Howell has failed to recognise that there is more than one point at issue. He would, I am sure, stress that the authority of the referee is absolute and point out that the laws of the game state clearly that a referee is appointed to enforce the laws and settle disputed points. As such this power *is* absolute.

We must all recognise it, for under any other conditions it will become impossible for anyone to play. If the authority of the referee is undermined then we can look forward to an endless series of discussions and arguments holding up every game that is staged.

Ruined

But in the present crisis there is more than the authority of the referee hanging in the balance. The game itself is in serious danger of being ruined from within by foul play and ruthless tactics and by indisciplined spectators.

There are two more points involved in all Disciplinary hearings which Mr. Howell seems to prefer to ignore. They can be summarised thus:

1. It being conceivable that the referee did make an error of judgement the Board must be prepared to accept any evidence in order to ensure that a player who has been cautioned or sent off, should not be unjustly treated. When people like myself are demanding one-year, two-year and five-year suspensions for the growing number of dirty players it is vitally important that an FA Commission should verify the *facts* contained in the referee's report.

2. That when the facts stated in a referee's report are *not* substantiated then this will automatically raise serious doubts about the capabilities of the official concerned.

Mr. Howell and myself, and anyone else seriously interested in football, will be unanimously agreed on our attitudes towards the referee ... whilst the game is in progress. But once the game is over, the appropriate authorities must investigate all cases of indiscipline or misconduct and they must conduct their enquiries on both sides of the fence.

This is not a problem confined to Great Britain and neither is it a problem which only affects the professional game. Amateurs of good standing and youngsters who play each weekend on recreation grounds are equally affected by the apparent adulation of dirty players which is now widespread.

by **ERIC BATTY**

The national press must accept a great deal of responsibility here for describing dirty players as "determined" and generally suggesting that the villains are in fact heroes.

It must be recognised, however, that the libel laws being what they are and some professional players not being too choosy where their money comes from, newspapers are wise as well as irresponsible in not playing their part in cleaning up the game.

Because the mass media—TV and newspapers—have failed to condemn such things, a great many people have come to believe that kicking and punching opponents is a part of the game. Gamesmanship has replaced sportsmanship and the spirit of the law no longer exists. These are now facts which have to be faced.

Referees are, of course, the first in the firing line when one asks how this situation has developed and it seems clear that all around the world there is now general agreement that referees are failing to stamp out foul play. If this is not so, then why do I hear of so many experiments being conducted WITH TWO REFEREES.

Experimental matches—some with the backing of FIFA or UEFA and others staged with the support of national associations are being organised in almost every country. The view is widespread that one contemporary referee is inadequate in present-day conditions!

Promised

This does not necessarily mean that the modern referee is inferior to his predecessor or that officials like Horn, Griffiths, Orlandini and Schmidt would be able to exercise control over players promised £500 each if they win and encouraged to nobble the key men amongst the opposition.

I personally believe that officials like those named would have sent off three or four players in some games I have seen in which not even one player was booked, but I am not suggesting that they would find it easy.

The contemporary referee has to be on his toes right from the start and I suspect that men like Horn and Schmidt would be busy doing homework even before the game started—finding out who are the dirty players amongst the two teams and resolving to give them special attention!

But in order to help the contemporary referee in a game which is faster than ever before and currently dominated by over-physical teams the Football Association could do something to help by offering new advice to their appointed officials. The Referees' Chart has this to say after Law 5 which deals with referees ...

"The laws of the game are intended to provide that games should be played with as little interference as possible, and in this view it is the duty of referees to penalise only deliberate breaches of the law. Constant whistling for trifling and doubtful breaches produces bad feeling and loss of temper on the part of players and spoils the pleasure of spectators."

In my opinion the time has come for a reappraisal of the situation and it would be a big step in the right direction if more realistic instructions and advice were given to referees along these lines....

It does not matter if the game is constantly being stopped by the whistle and the pleasure of spectators should be considered to be of secondary importance. Make it clear to everyone that you are familiar with the laws of the game and will not tolerate misconduct of any kind. Only through energetic and courageous action can the referee play his vitally important part in stamping out violent play and ungentlemanly conduct.

from ERIC WEIL

Youngest director

AS WORLD SOCCER goes to press, a new season is about to start with 16 smaller First Division clubs protesting at Argentine FA Interventor, Armando Ramos Ruiz's, decision to reduce the size of the top division in the Metropolitan Championship from 22 to 18 clubs in two seasons. Three clubs will be relegated this year and only one promoted. At the same time, 18 instead of 16 clubs take part in the National Championship, permitting the entry of one more team from the provinces and one more from the Metropolitan Championship.

Another major change in the ever-changing Argentine soccer scene is the scrapping of the professional reserve division which may be a reason for fewer transfers actually taking place, although negotiations went on as briskly as ever, mostly at the Atlantic coast seaside resorts where club directors were vacationing and numerous teams were limbering up for the new season.

Biggest name transfer was that of international forward, Raul Savoy, from Independiente to Boca Juniors for £19,000 to boost the latter's ailing attack, but it didn't go through without a hitch as Savoy, at first, wanted to earn more than Boca's king-pin, Rattin.

A late rush may boost transfer figures to their usual proportion. Meanwhile the major changes came in the managerial hot-seats or the local equivalent, technical directors. In less than a month ten of 22 First Division clubs changed their "TD's" and in some cases it wasn't due to lack of success as, for example, at Velez Sarsfield and San Lorenzo, National and Metropolitan champions, where Manuel Giudice and Elba de Padua Lima left.

The changes ranged from powerful Boca Juniors where Alfredo Di Stefano took over from Jose D'Amico (which had been expected ever since Club President, Alberto Armando, had engaged Di Stefano as his personal assistant last year) to little Argentinos Juniors where a world record has surely been set by putting 22-year-old Carlos Cavagnaro in charge of a First Division club.

Di Stefano, the former Argentine international, River Plate and Real Madrid centre-forward, takes over a solid Boca team which just needs to find the way to goal to reach the top. If Di Stefano remembers anything of his own playing days, he should find it for them. At the moment he is looking for two wingmen and speedier mid-field transmission and wants to change their style from 4-3-3 to 4-2-4. This may hold up the team's progress as he hasn't yet got the right men for the job. But he knows he will have to pick up points steadily to keep his own job.

Young Cavagnaro, on the other hand, takes over a club which just scraped clear of relegation last season, sold one of their best players, Coroch, to Boca Juniors, but have done nothing to strengthen their team as they have no money. As a footballer, Cavagnaro only got as far as playing in Velez Sarsfield's lower divisions, but he has worked as helper to a number of well-known coaches which, he says, have given him "a hundred years experience". Cavagnaro has little to lose with Argentinos Juniors, but the current season may leave him with just one record—that of having been the youngest "TD" in the First Division.

Most important of the free transfers resulting from the scrapping of the reserve division and reduction of many professional staffs was that given to 42-year-old Amadeo Carrizo, the River Plate goalkeeper who established several records last season. At 42 he was the oldest active First Division player and the one to have played in that division longest (23 years) and most games (518), all for River Plate.

Last season he also kept his goal intact longer than anybody else had ever done in the division—770 minutes—and he is the goalkeeper to have won most championships (6).

These records are unlikely to be beaten, least of all that of most games played. Active players with most games at the moment are Carlos Griguol (340) and Antonio Rattin (329).

Over 4,000 River Plate members signed a petition to the club committee to keep Carrizo on the staff. President, Julio Kent, said Carrizo was given a free transfer because the club wanted him to go out at the top, but Carrizo thinks he has at least a couple more seasons left and is studying several offers, some from foreign clubs, to play or coach.

An interesting tournament, between four First Division clubs, under changed rules was played during the close season. There was no off-side; three types of corners (one from the edge of the small area or the big area or the usual corner, depending on where the ball went out); kick-ins instead of throw-ins from the sidelines; no players' walls allowed for free-kicks; all hands charged even if unintentional; no indirect free-kicks and matches lasted 90 minutes of actual playing time with the stop-watch stopped when the ball was not in play.

Results could not be taken as conclusive because the tournament was too short for the players to get used to these changes and make the best use of them. More goals were scored, and most of them would not have been goals under current rules, but hardly ever did players stay up near opposing goals as a result of the no off-side change. There was less mid-field play and more care was taken not to put the ball out of play. Further trials, with top clubs playing more competitive games, would be useful, but the games played were interesting.

Another new Argentine national team is off in earnest on its way to the World Cup. It started with 15 days in Bolivia, scene of one of Argentina's qualifying group games in August where the altitude is similar to that in Mexico. During their stay the players were under continual medical supervisinn to note their reactions under strain. None has played in the World Cup before.

When Humberto Maschio was put in full charge as national coach at the start of the year he also picked yet another new team, leaving out a number of apparent certainties such as Rendo, Savoy or Silva because he considered they wouldn't fit into his 4-3-3 plan with the accent on rotation and attack.

The latest squad, which we hope, is still the latest when this is published, is: **Goal**—Andrada (Rosario Central), Poletti (Estudiantes). Cejas (Racing). **Defence**—Malbernat (Estudiantes). Gallo (Velez Sarsfield), Nelson Lopez (Huracan), Perfumo (Racing), Pascutini (Rosario Central), Ovide (Boca Juniors), Madero (Estudiantes), Basile (Racing), Pachame (Estudiantes), Recio (River Plate), Cocco (San Lorenzo), Veglio (San Lorenzo). **Attack:** Gonzales (San Lorenzo), Fischer (San Lorenzo), Salomone (Racing), Yazalde (Independiente), Webbe (Velez Sarsfield), Veron (Estudiantes), Minitti (Lanus).

ARGENTINA SOCCER SCENE

A much-changed Argentine national team: Back row (L. to R.): Andrada, Malbernat, Aguirre, Rogel, Tardivo, Pascutini, Ovide. Front (L. to R.): Minitti, Silva, Savoy, Abalay. (EW)

ARGENTINA

ALBERTO ARMANDO, president of popular Buenos Aires club, Boca Juniors, created the Ciudad de Mar del Plata Cup tournament as an annual event to make this important Argentine seaside resort an international soccer centre and also with an eye on the tourists' cash. Spectators didn't roll up in the numbers expected, yet Armando, as usual, was happy to announce at the end that it had been a financial success and happier still that most of the success had been for his own club which won it. If the preparation which went into this tournament (including the remodelling of the town's stadium which Boca Juniors has leased for ten summers) deserved better support, the football didn't . . . and no wonder.

For Brazil's Palmeiras and Argentina's Boca Juniors and Estudiantes de La Plata it served as preparation for the new season following the players' annual holiday. For the three European clubs, Slovan Bratislava (Czech champions), Rapid Vienna (Austrian champions) and MKT (Hungary), it was tourism and training during the mid-winter shut-down of their own national championships, while the seventh participants, the Mar del Plata Selection, were semi-professional and only entered to give the tournament local interest. None was at peak fitness.

NO

But there were interesting points as, for example, the difference in tactics.

The Europeans, in mid-season, were naturally fitter. Their soccer had more rhythm. They used the mid-field only to transport the ball as quickly as possible from back to front, while the South Americans frequently made the game stationary in that zone with square passes. A European always had a man near him to take over the ball, while the South Americans invariably ran into position but were left covered, which left their team-mate in possession unable to pass with ease.

Boca Juniors won because they took the tournament more seriously, but they showed their same old defects—an attack which lacked surprise and penetration except for a few inspired moves by Pianetti and a mid-field which transported the ball too slowly and, though intelligent, gave the opposition time to foresee its every move. Boca's defence was again its mainstay although Marzolini (the former World Cup star who had just returned to the team) and Melendez (just back from a holiday in Peru, his home) showed they were short of top-class soccer. Thus veteran, Rattin, was yet again Boca's outstanding player in the middle and it was noticeable during the tournament that new coach, Alfredo Di Stefano, was changing the team's style from 4-3-3 to 4-2-4, but not finding the men for the job in spite of frequent changes.

Boca were helped to final victory by their main rivals losing vital points. First, erratic Palmeiras was put out of the running by unexpectedly losing to the Mar del Plata Selection, but then they eliminated Estudiantes by beating them 1-0. This latter game was a replay of last season's South American Cup final with the Brazilians getting revenge, but only when they were able to slow down the

Corinthians forward line in Chile—left to right: Paulo Borges, Tales, Bene, Titiao, Eduardo. (EW)

tempo in the second half and Estudiantes fell into the trap and lost their rhythm.

The result made the last game, Boca v. Estudiantes, a mere formality, yet it became a continuation of the vendetta which made the league meetings of these two teams so disagreeable. The usual brawling ended with the second-half sending-off of Nicolao (Boca) and Bilardo (Estudiantes), who went fighting all the way to the dressing-room. The local press had complained of rough encounters between the European teams, but they had been child's play in comparison to this.

World champions, Estudiantes de La Plata, slightly better after their rest than during their poor patch following the Manchester United meetings, were still far from their peak as a team and short of "goal" in spite of finishing as the tournament's leading scorers. PT coach, Enrique Kistenmacher, said they were only 70% fit but hadn't started training earlier so as not to curtail the players' holidays. Under the circumstances they did well, still using the most modern tactics in the country with reserves fitting perfectly into the scheme, but still leaning heavily on their four-man rearguard in which Malbernat and Madero stood

CLOSE SEASON

International summer tournaments have become the fashion in South America. More are being staged every year. They are profitable financially but seldom from the soccer angle, nor a guide to form, because the famous teams taking part are not in full training. Here ERIC WEIL reviews three of the more important tournaments staged in Mar del Plata (Argentina), Santiago de Chile and Montevideo.

out. They were also unlucky, as one-goal defeats against Slovan, Palmeiras and Boca were undeserved.

Runners-up, Palmeiras, though erratic, played the best soccer and provided the best matches. They allowed rivals room to play because they wanted to be free to play themselves their classical Brazilian (4-2-4) elegant touch soccer with middle man, Adhemir da Guia, outstanding as usual and Argentine centre-forward, Luis Artime, who scored all five against Rapid, finishing as the tournament's top scorer with seven. But too often the Brazilians tried to dribble the ball into the net which was ineffective against the packed defences of all the other teams. Palmeiras included only three of the players (Da Guia, Dudu, Baldocchi) who faced Estudiantes in the SA Cup Final as new coach, Nelson Filpo Nuñez, is in the process of remodelling the team so they were also below form.

Third-placed Slovan was not the best of the European teams, but the one which finished the tournament most strongly, while MKT was much-weakened by a few injuries and the sending-off of their excellent, but temperamental half, Kiss, in the later games. Both teams impressed with their quick-to-pack defences, sharp counter-attacks with a lot of players, continual rhythm and rotation, simple moves and hard shooting. Slovan with important players in Vencel (the best goalkeeper in the tournament), Horbath (five), a good sweeper, Cvetler (seven) and Moder (ten) and all-over-the-place Capcovic, who made their 4-3-3 formation more into a 3-2-2-1-2, while MKT's sweeper, Csetenyi, was the forwards' enemy No. 1.

Rapid, with more attack, but a weak defence, frankly disappointed after their opening 2-1 defeat against Boca, especially as more was expected of the team which had recently eliminated Real Madrid to reach the European Cup quarter-finals. Repeated team changes gave the impression that the players were all being given a run and there seemed to be little interest in the result. Goalkeeper Resinger, a reserve, played until injured in spite of showing very poor form. Only centre-back, Glechner, and winger, Fritch, stood out.

CHILE

MOSCOW DYNAMO'S coach, Constantiv Vescov, blamed himself for not winning the annual international tournament at Santiago de Chile. His team were beating Colo-Colo 3-1. Vescov thought the game was won and sent on several reserves. Colo-Colo was allowed to recover and draw 3-3. In the end the point was vital as the Chilean club finished top, a point in front of Dynamo.

The victory of Chile's most popular club was, of course, welcome at Santiago. Colo-Colo had just finished a poor season in which they even failed to qualify for the national championship. Colo played well in this tournament, but within their capabilities, and Chileans, ever keen to watch good soccer, whoever played it, were disappointed that none of the foreign clubs were good enough to beat them and that the over-all standard of the tournament was the poorest yet.

Dynamo's main attributes were speed and fitness, but they played uninteresting soccer. The other Europeans, Red Star, from Yugoslavia, including five of the country's current internationals, played a more attractive game with several of the players showing the South Americans' skill for ball play, the Acimovic-Dzajic wing being specially dangerous. It must also be said that the 1-1 draw between the two was the only game to provide 90 minutes of real, fluent soccer.

The South Americans, Corinthians from San Paulo and San Lorenzo, the Buenos Aires Metropolitan champions, turned up with their players just back from holiday and out of training. San Lorenzo even came without a coach, who was in the process of being engaged in Buenos Aires. When he (Manuel Giudice) arrived in time for the second game, he naturally spent the rest of the tournament reorganising his out-of-form team in which only Albrecht, Rendo and Cocco were up to scratch and which played only one good game against Red Star.

The organisers said they were "fed up with Argentine teams coming to Chile to train"—last year world champions, Racing, did the same and finished bottom—and may not invite any more.

Corinthians improved as they got into gear, played some attractive soccer, with international half, Rivelhino, outstanding, but high-priced Paulo Borges, a 200,000 dollar transfer, disappointed. Yet they could only beat a poor Universitario de Chile, who had important players such as Lionel Sanchez and Ruben Marcos absent for many games.

● *Continued on page 41*

World Diary . . . ROGER MACDONALD . . . World Diary

A NEW ERA . . . ?

IN the World Cup, a team either goes forward or it goes back. Thus Brazil, spared the preliminaries in 1962 and 1966 by virtue of their successive victories in the finals, now find themselves with six hard qualifying matches to get through this summer.

The programme has been arranged so that the Brazilians play their three away matches in 11 days, against Colombia in Bogota on August 7, Venezuela in Caracas on August 10, and against Paraguay in Asuncion on August 17. They then return to Rio and play the home matches against their three opponents at Maracana between August 21 and August 31.

Even if Brazil were in irresistible form, the risk of such a strenuous sequence would be considerable. There is a vast difference in altitude between the venues (only Rio is at sea level), and Brazil have left precious little time for acclimatisation. In fact Colombia, who play in Rio on August 21, will have a fortnight to prepare for the return match, whereas Brazil only fly back from Asuncion three days earlier. And six games in four weeks are sure to produce a few injuries, making it impossible for Brazil to field their strongest team.

This almost irresponsible sequence of World Cup-ties is the one legacy which Aimore Moreira, team manager in 1962 and 1966, has left his successor, Joao Saldanha. Certainly he has provided almost nothing in the way of promising results, high morale or consistent team selection. Brazil have used more than 40 players during the last year, and their results, especially at home, have been mediocre. They threw away a two-goal lead against West Germany, who were without two of their best players; and scrambled another draw against a highly experimental Yugoslav side (while the strongest Yugoslav selection lost 2-0 to Brazil in Belgrade the previous summer, if you remember).

This was bad enough, but the Brazilians were even beaten 2-1 at Maracana by Mexico, only their second home defeat in full internationals over the past 12 years. And Mexico's performances against West Germany and Italy showed them to be less than formidable, host nation or not next year.

One cause of Brazil's great malaise has been an inter-city rivalry, with intrigues to alter the delicate balance of power between Sao Paulo and Rio de Janeiro. Worse, personalities have frequently crept into the choice of players over the past few years—resulting in, on the one hand, Djalma Santos playing in the 1966 World Cup when a sustained physical effort was clearly beyond him: while, on the other, the brilliant young full-back Carlos Alberto is excluded even from the party to travel. Brazil's two team doctors, Lidio Toledo and Chirol, have been accused of influencing the choice of their own club players at Botafogo. The Cruzeiro midfield player, Tostao, said in a public statement that Toledo had told Moreira that he was not in good physical shape, in order to keep Botafogo's Gerson in the national side.

Moreira delayed his departure by the formation of a selection committee, consisting of himself and his three assistant coaches—Zagalo, Brandao and Evaristo—called the COSENA (the Commission of National Selection). This did not alter his ultimate control, but tended to confuse both the press and the Brazilian FA as to his degree of responsibility for the run of failures.

When the COSENA was dissolved, the choice of a new team manager seemed to rest largely on the opinion of Antonio do Passos, former president of the Carioca Federation, and extremely influential with Joao Havelange himself. Passos, obstinate and volatile, effectively quashed a strong movement to bring back Hilton Gosling and Paulo Amaral, who prepared Brazil's two successive teams in the World Cup. Nor did he favour Zito, former captain of Santos, as anything more than a trainer—a good man *with* the team, not a good man to choose the team. And Zagalo—the withdrawn winger in the World Cup who acted as a guinea-pig for 4-3-3—was passed over partly because of his association with the Moreira camp, and partly because his success with Botafogo has been strictly limited to domestic competitions.

Dr. Hilton Gosling. (A)

So Saldanha it was—a controversial choice, and according to Sao Paulo's Marchado de Carvalho, the most incomprehensible choice ever made. For Saldanha is best known as a television commentator and a journalist, and it is as if the English FA suddenly decided to replace Sir Alf Ramsey with Brian Moore. (Other commentators may spring more easily to mind, but one likes the comparison to have a ring of plausibility, after all.)

Saldanha, who is 53, took the adverse reactions to his appointment with customary calm. Having spent much of his life as a journalist, he was able to anticipate criticism and demolish it almost before it appeared. "Brazilian football is in the midst of a crisis," he declared. "This is a time when we must pull together for the common good, not indulge in petty squabbles and stupid rivalry."

Certainly Saldanha has a background of success in football circles. He learned the skills of the game on the beaches near Rio, got to university through sheer hard work, and played junior football for a while as a centre-half with Botafogo. Eventually the club appointed him coach, and in 1957 he took them to the Rio championship—building a team that included such famous names as Garrincha, Zagalo, Didi, Amarildo, Nilton Santos and Quarentinha. Then Saldanha became technical adviser to Brazilian Radio. It was here that he picked up the skills of broadcasting, and by 1959 he was accomplished enough to hold weekly, impromptu soccer discussions live on TV, one of the most popular programmes in Brazil.

Saldanha has a ready wit, devastating repartee, and a prodigious memory for facts, opinions and anecdotes. His criticism has been so penetrating that the Brazilian FA often found themselves with half an ear cocked for his latest pronouncements. His international contacts are enormous: he speaks more or less fluent English and French, and has been in one guise or another to every World Cup competition since Italy won at home in 1934.

TIMING

With impeccable timing, Saldanha made a television broadcast at the exact hour that de Carvalho was using his own Sao Paulo radio station to attack the Brazilian FA's

EDU—of Brazil. (Met)

new appointment. Saldanha described his predecessor's constant chopping and changing as "disastrous for morale" and said that he proposed "to choose Brazil's team now for the World Cup matches". He announced both a first and a reserve team, and de Carvalho's broadcast got hardly a mention in the newspapers.

Saldanha's 22 are:

First team: Felix (Fluminese); Carlos Alberto (Santos), Brito (Vasco da Gama), Djalma Dias (Atletico Mineiro), Rildo (Santos); Dirceu Lopes (Cruzeiro), Gerson (Botafogo), Wilson Piazza (Cruzeiro); Jairzinho (Botafogo), Pelé (Santos), Tostao (Cruzeiro).

Reserves: Claudio; Maria, Scala, Joel, Evaraldo; Clodoaldo, Rivelinho, Paulo Borges; Toninho, Paulo Cesar, Edu.

If it were anyone else but Saldanha, I would be inclined to treat any such announcement with a good deal of caution. However, Saldanha realises that it is the sheer uncertainty of selection that has produced erratic performances in many recent matches. From now on, players know exactly where they stand. The 22 players named above are Brazil's short list for the World Cup finals itself, and the first team is chosen for *all six* qualifying matches. "There will only be changes if they are dictated by injuries or particularly poor form," said Saldanha.

Little is left of the decaying edifice that Brazil took to the finals in England—in fact, only six of the new 22 were even in the party. One of them, of course, is Pelé, who (as I forecast some months ago, following an interview in Stuttgart) is determined to play in another World Cup, in spite of the dreadful treatment he received in England. Not that he has forgotten this. Asked whom he feared most in Mexico, he replied: "The referee."

In other respects the choice of players is not particularly surprising, although clearly the team will be stronger physically, and less artistic, than the 1966 side. Saldanha said that some players had to be included because of their great class, "whatever they might lack physically through smoking 60 cigarettes a day" (he can only have been referring to Gerson), but that he would expect harder tackling and more hard running than from any previous national side.

The old Santos supremacy seems to have gone for good, even with Carlos Alberto—now probably the best full-back in South America—and Rildo alongside Pelé. Felix gets the No. 1 goalkeeping place, but the choice of Claudio as reserve, rather than Picasso, is a little surprising. It is good to see Wilson Piazza back, after an enforced absence caused by a broken leg in an international with Uruguay. So Cruzeiro also provide three players, confirming their rise to prominence in the Brazilian Cup.

Brazil have a tough programme of matches in preparation for the six World Cup ties in Group 11. They expect to play against Peru in Lima, Uruguay in Montevideo and four fixtures (including an international against Argentina) in Buenos Aires. England, of course, are included among their home opponents next June. But the problem of fixture congestion is eased considerably by their clubs' withdrawal from the South American Cup, apparently on the grounds that runners-up in the various leagues would make the competition unprofitable, but really, one suspects, under pressure from the Brazilian FA.

Saldanha, of course, has made the inevitable prediction that Brazil "will win the World Cup in Mexico next year". But he will do well to remember that even the qualifying matches against Colombia, Venezuela and Paraguay could be a stiff hurdle. When Brazil last played in the qualifying competition, they survived against Peru in Lima only with the help of an extremely doubtful penalty . . . and the crowd invaded the pitch.

In Argentina, too, the World Cup is being taken seriously. The championship restarted on February 23, which, of course, is mid-summer south of the equator, so that it could be suspended during July and August to allow for World Cup qualifying matches. At the end of the last close season the new and totally inexperienced Humberto Maschio, once a famous player with Racing and later in Italy, took a party of players to Bolivia and trained them mercilessly at 7,000 feet. Anyone whom the team doctor, Pitaluga, found languid or labouring at altitude was sent back to Buenos Aires.

Maschio is determined to overcome the handicap of playing so far above sea level, for Argentina face in their World Cup programme away matches with Peru in Lima and Bolivia at La Paz—where the air is thin and the lungs overworked. And at least eight full-scale friendlies are planned, apart from weekly training sessions every Wednesday afternoon, before the serious business of the World Cup gets under way. On March 19, Argentina play Paraguay; on April 9, the Rio Grande do Sul province of Brazil; and four games against unspecified opponents on May 14 and 28, June 11 and 25. Then come two games against Brazil in Buenos Aires on June 9 and 12, before the first World Cup-tie on July 27: six ties in a month, ending with home matches against Peru on August 24 and Bolivia on August 31.

All players must report at least 48 hours before each match, for Maschio is determined to create a true team spirit so often

● *Continued on page 41*

BETWEEN now and the end of the year the national teams of every European football association except those of England (exempted from qualification chores as the World Cup holders), and Malta, Iceland and Albania (all three non-entrants) will be competing desperately for precious places in the final stages of the 1970 World Championship to be held in Mexico.

Twenty-nine teams competing for eight places and yet nearly half of those 29 would warrant, on merit, final places. No room, though, because they are in the same qualifying group, for both Hungary and Czechoslovakia; East Germany and Italy; Sweden and France; Spain, Yugoslavia and Belgium (all three of whom are in the same group); West Germany and Scotland; Bulgaria, the the Netherlands and Poland.

Some of those, who may not finish higher than third out of four in their European qualifying groups, have recently been in South America and turning in results that suggest they would have an easier task qualifying in South or Latin American groups than they will have in Europe! It has always been so, and with a generous allowance of three places to South America, Argentina, Brazil and Uruguay (the Big Three) should find little difficulty next July and August in booking their places for Mexico a year later. There have been occasional upsets in the past—but very few and indeed very little need often to even go through the motions of qualifying.

World Cup matches will start soon

South American Commentary by GORDON JEFFERY

Rivelinho of Corinthians, the new mid-field genius of Brazil. (EW)

It was remarkably not until 1954 that a qualifying match was played amongst the South Americans for places in the final stages of the world competition. In the first ever competition in 1930, of course, no one needed to qualify and it was more a case of frantically seeking 16 volunteers to compete for the championship in Uruguay. In the event only 13 could be found and of those only four pioneers made the trek from Europe (France, Yugoslavia, Rumania and Belgium). The United States of America from the North and Mexico from Central America also entered and the rest all came from the South American continent — Argentina, Chile, Brazil, Bolivia, Uruguay (the winners), Peru and Paraguay.

There was even less interest shown by the South Americans for the second competition (1934 in Italy) than the Europeans had shown for the first. Two final places were allocated to the South Americans and a group was made of Brazil and Peru, and another of Argentina and Chile, but both Peru and Chile withdrew without playing a match and Argentina and Brazil reached the finals by default.

Much the same situation arose in respect of the 1938 championship staged in France. Colombia entered for this one and were put with Cuba, Costa Rica, Dutch Guiana, Mexico and Salvador in a curious Central American group from which all except Cuba withdrew. The only other South Americans to enter were Brazil and Bolivia—and the latter obligingly withdrew.

In 1950 when the final stages were held in Brazil—and the game in South America had been able to progress during a decade in which North America and Europe had been engulfed in war—it would have been reasonable to expect a large South American entry but the internal bickerings, the chauvinism that has always bedevilled the continental organisation of football in South America reasserted themselves and although there was a wholly unrealistic participation of five South American, one Central American and one North American in the final tournament compared with but six European associations, the five South American again got into that final stage without the necessity of playing a single qualifying match! Brazil were there as the host country in any case; Uruguay and Paraguay were placed in a qualifying group with Peru and Ecuador with two to gain final places—and Peru and Ecuador withdrew. Bolivia and Chile were with Argentina in a three-nation group with two to qualify—and Argentina withdrew.

The 1954 competition (staged in Switzerland) saw a small South American entry but with only two places allowed and one of them claimed by Uruguay as the holders, it was for the first time necessary for the three remaining South American entrants, Brazil, Chile and Paraguay, to compete in a qualifying group for the second place—it went to Brazil.

Since 1954 there has been a larger South American entry for each competition and qualifying competitions have been necessary —but, since there has always been a generous allocation of final places, these have often been little more than exercises in paper fighting. Even on a solely numerical basis the allocation can seldom be justified with groups consisting of more than three associations a rare exception.

For the 1958 competition because of the withdrawal of Venezuela, Brazil and Peru made up one group (and a 1-1 draw and a 1-0 win earned Brazil their ticket to Sweden and

eventual victory in the Final), and the two remaining groups consisted of only three associations apiece. Yet there was a surprise when Paraguay edged in front of Uruguay who had dropped a point in an away match against Colombia.

The 1962 situation was ridiculously biased in favour of the South Americans—a fact that gave considerable justification to the African complaints that lead to the unfortunate mass withdrawals of those countries from the 1966 competition. In 1962 Brazil claimed one final place at the holders, Chile another as the hosts, but still three more were reserved exclusively for South American national associations and in yet a fourth there was an added chance.

There were qualifying groups for the three places—one concerned Argentina and Ecuador; another Bolivia and Uruguay; and the third Colombia and Peru. Paraguay meantime had been given a place in a group to meet, with no sub-group matches, the winner of the laboriously organised North and Central American grouping that included seven associations. Mexico were the winners both of the initial groups and of the final matches against Paraguay. Otherwise there would have been a final in which there were six South Americans from an entry of nine associations. As it was there were five for a competition in which worthy finalists in Europe like Sweden, France, and Scotland for example had been left behind after losing play-off matches against Switzerland, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia.

There was slightly more sense in 1966 when four places were allowed the South Americans—one of them Brazil as the holders, and the remaining three contended for by nine associations—in tidy groups of three

● *Continued on page 36*

PAST WORLD CUP RECORDS OF THE SOUTH AMERICAN 1970 ENTRANTS

Group 10—Argentina, Peru and Bolivia

Comp.	Argentina	Peru	Bolivia
1930 (Uruguay)			
	beat France 1-0	lost Rumania 1-3	lost Yugoslavia 0-4
	beat Mexico 6-3	lost Uruguay 0-1	lost Brazil 0-4
	beat Chile 3-1		
	beat USA 6-1		
	lost Uruguay 2-4		
1934 (Italy)			
	lost Sweden 2-3	—	—
1938 (France)			
	—	—	—
1950 (Brazil)			
	—	—	lost Uruguay 0-8
1954 (Switzerland)			
	—	—	—
1958 (Sweden)			
	lost BOLIVIA 0-2	drew Brazil 1-1	lost Chile 1-2
	beat Chile 2-0	lost Brazil 0-1	beat Chile 3-0
	beat Chile 4-0		beat ARGENT. 2-0
	beat BOLIVIA 4-0		lost ARGENT. 0-4
	lost W. Germany 1-3		
	beat N. Ireland 3-1		
	lost Czech. 1-6		
1962 (Chile)			
	beat Ecuador 6-3	lost Colombia 0-1	drew Uruguay 1-1
	beat Ecuador 5-0	drew Colombia 1-1	lost Uruguay 1-2
	beat Bulgaria 1-0		
	lost England 1-3		
	drew Hungary 0-0		
1966 (London)			
	beat Paraguay 3-0	beat Venezuela 1-0	lost Paraguay 0-2
	drew Paraguay 0-0	beat Venezuela 6-3	lost ARGENT. 1-4
	beat BOLIVIA 4-1	lost Uruguay 0-1	beat Paraguay 2-1
	beat BOLIVIA 2-1	lost Uruguay 1-2	lost ARGENT. 1-2
	beat Spain 2-1		
	drew W. Germany 0-0		
	beat Switzerland 2-0		
	lost England 0-1		
Summary:	P26 W16 D3 L7	P10 W2 D2 L6	P13 W3 D1 L9

Group 11—Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Paraguay

Comp.	Brazil	Colombia	Paraguay
1930 (Uruguay)			
	lost Yugoslavia 1-2	—	lost USA 0-3
	beat Bolivia 4-0	—	beat Belgium 1-0
1934 (Italy)			
	lost Spain 1-3	—	—
1938 (France)			
	beat Poland 6-5	—	—
	drew Czech. 1-1		
	beat Czech. 2-1		
	lost Italy 1-2		
	beat Sweden 4-2		
1950 (Brazil)			
	beat Mexico 4-0	—	drew Sweden 2-2
	drew Switzerland 2-2		lost Italy 0-2
	beat Yugoslavia 2-0		
	beat Sweden 7-1		
	beat Spain 6-1		
	lost Uruguay 1-2		
1954 (Switzerland)			
	beat Chile 2-0	—	beat Chile 4-0
	beat PARAG'Y 1-0		beat Chile 3-1
	beat Chile 1-0		lost BRAZIL 0-1
	beat PARAG'Y 4-1		lost BRAZIL 1-4
	beat Mexico 5-0		
	drew Yugoslavia 1-1		
	lost Hungary 2-4		
1958 (Sweden)			
	drew Peru 1-1	drew Uruguay 1-1	beat COLOMB. 3-2
	beat Peru 1-0	lost PARAG'Y 2-3	beat COLOMB. 3-0
	beat Austria 3-0	lost Uruguay 0-1	beat Uruguay 5-0
	drew England 0-0	lost PARAG'Y 0-3	lost Uruguay 0-2
	beat USSR 2-0		lost France 3-7
	beat Wales 1-0		beat Scotland 3-2
	beat France 5-2		drew Yugoslavia 3-3
	beat Sweden 5-2		
1962 (Chile)			
	beat Mexico 2-0	beat Peru 1-0	lost Mexico 0-1
	drew Czech. 0-0	drew Peru 1-1	drew Mexico 0-0
	beat Spain 2-1	lost Uruguay 1-2	
	beat England 3-1	drew USSR 4-4	
	beat Chile 4-2	lost Yugoslavia 0-5	
	beat Czech. 3-1		
1966 (England)			
	beat Bulgaria 2-0	lost Ecuador 0-1	beat Bolivia 2-0
	lost Hungary 1-3	lost Ecuador 0-2	lost Argentina 0-3
	lost Portugal 1-3	lost Chile 2-7	drew Argentina 0-0
		beat Chile 2-0	lost Bolivia 1-2
Summary:	P38 W25 D6 L7	P13 W2 D3 L8	P21 W8 D4 L9

Venezuela: 1966 (England)—lost Peru 0-1, lost Uruguay 0-5, lost Uruguay 1-3, lost Peru 3-6. Summary: P4 W0 D0 L4.

Group 12—Uruguay, Chile and Ecuador

Comp.	Uruguay	Chile	Ecuador
1930 (Uruguay)			
	beat Peru 1-0	beat Mexico 3-0	—
	beat Rumania 4-0	beat France 1-0	
	beat Yugoslavia 6-1	lost Argentina 1-3	
	beat Argentina 4-2		
1934 (Italy)			
	—	—	—
1938 (France)			
	—	—	—
1950 (Brazil)			
	beat Bolivia 8-0	lost England 0-2	—
	drew Spain 2-2	lost Spain 0-2	
	beat Sweden 3-2	beat USA 5-2	
	beat Brazil 2-1		
1954 (Switzerland)			
	beat Scotland 7-0	lost Paraguay 0-4	—
	beat W. Germany 8-3	lost Paraguay 1-3	
	beat England 4-2	lost Brazil 0-2	
	lost Hungary 2-4	lost Brazil 0-1	
	lost Austria 1-2		
1958 (Sweden)			
	drew Colombia 1-1	beat Bolivia 2-1	
	beat Colombia 1-0	lost Bolivia 0-3	
	lost Paraguay 0-5	lost Argentina 0-2	
	beat Paraguay 2-0	lost Argentina 0-4	
1962 (Chile)			
	drew Bolivia 1-1	beat Switz'land 3-1	lost Argentina 3-6
	beat Bolivia 2-1	beat Italy 2-0	lost Argentina 0-5
	beat Colombia 2-1	lost W. Germ'y 0-2	
	lost Yugoslavia 1-3	beat USSR 2-1	
	lost USSR 1-2	lost Brazil 2-4	
		beat Yugosl'via 1-0	
1966 (England)			
	beat Venezuela 5-0	beat Colombia 7-2	beat Colombia 1-0
	beat Venezuela 3-1	lost Colombia 0-2	beat Colombia 2-0
	beat Peru 1-0	drew ECUAD'R 2-2	drew CHILE 2-2
	beat Peru 2-1	beat ECUAD'R 3-1	lost CHILE 1-3
	drew England 0-0	lost Italy 0-2	
	beat France 2-1	drew N. Korea 1-1	
	drew Mexico 0-0	lost USSR 1-2	
	lost W. Germany 0-4		
Summary:	P30 W19 D5 L6	P27 W10 D2 L15	P6 W2 D1 L3

England are bogey team

PLAYING RECORD

	Pld.	W.	D.	L.	For	Agst.
Argentina	4	3	0	1	9	2
Austria	28	11	5	12	36	49
Belgium	10	9	0	1	28	12
Brazil	5	4	0	1	11	4
Bulgaria	3	2	0	1	10	4
Chile	2	1	0	1	2	2
Cyprus	2	2	0	0	7	0
Czechoslovakia	20	8	6	6	33	29
Denmark	2	1	0	1	6	6
Egypt	4	4	0	0	20	6
Eire	1	1	0	0	3	0
England	9	0	5	4	12	20
Finland	4	3	0	1	13	6
France	24	16	5	3	68	32
Germany (West)	13	8	3	2	25	18
Greece	1	1	0	0	4	0
Holland	4	1	3	0	7	6
Hungary	27	11	7	9	47	50
N. Ireland	4	2	1	1	7	6
Israel	2	2	0	0	10	2
Japan	1	1	0	0	8	0
Korea (North)	1	0	0	1	0	1
Luxembourg	1	1	0	0	2	0
Mexico	3	2	1	0	9	3
Norway	4	4	0	0	9	4
Paraguay	1	1	0	0	2	0
Poland	2	1	1	0	6	1
Portugal	10	6	1	3	24	13
Rumania	4	4	0	0	7	2
Scotland	3	2	0	1	6	1
Spain	16	6	6	4	25	15
Sweden	7	1	4	2	12	14
Switzerland	38	20	12	6	86	55
Thailand	1	1	0	0	4	1
Turkey	2	2	0	0	7	0
Uruguay	1	0	0	1	2	3
USA	4	4	0	0	25	1
USSR	5	1	2	2	2	4
Wales	2	2	0	0	5	1
Yugoslavia	9	4	3	2	13	14

MOST capped players:

Umberto Caligaris	59
Giuseppe Meazza	53
Virginio Rosetta	52
Adolfo Baloncieri	47
Giampiero Combi	47
Giovanni Ferrari	44
Renzo De Vecchi	43
Giacinto Facchetti	40
Gianpiero Boniperti	38
Eraldo Monzeglio	35
Raimondo Orsi	35
Silvio Piola	34
Gianni Rivera	34

CURRENT SQUAD

	Age	Caps
Dino Zoff (Napoli)	27	6
Enrico Albertosi (Fiorentina)	29	18
Tarcisio Burgnich (Inter)	29	27
Aristide Guarneri (Bologna)	31	21
Ernesto Castano (Juventus)	29	6
Giacinto Facchetti (Inter)	26	40
Antonio Juliano (Napoli)	26	12
Giorgio Ferrini (Torino)	29	7
Angelo Domenghini (Inter)	27	17
Sandro Mazzola (Inter)	26	32
Gianni Rivera (AC Milan)	25	34
Luigi Riva (Cagliari)	24	10
Giacomo Bulgarelli (Bologna)	28	29
Roberto Rosato (AC Milan)	25	18
Giancarlo De Sisti (Fiorentina)	26	6
Sandro Salvadore (Juventus)	29	31
Angelo Anquiletti (AC Milan)	25	2

Italy versus Austria back in 1966—a match played as part of Italy's preparations for the World Cup. Italy won 1-0. (UPI)

MICROSCOPE

Third in a new series by

ERIC BATTY

ITALY

Over the years the Italians have played fewer international matches than most countries and in spite of the multiplicity of competitions for national teams they continue even today to play fewer matches. To a large extent this is due to the strong position of the professional clubs in relationship with the FA, and this is reflected in the number of players who have reached formidable figures for international appearances. Many of the most capped players in Italy were stars of the '30s, and around 1933 Combi, Meazza, Ferrari and the full-backs, Rosetta and Caligaris, all played together frequently.

Adolfo Baloncieri was fading out of the picture by 1931 and Ferrari, who played in the 1934 and 1938 World Cup Finals, replaced him. De Vecchi, another full-back, had set his figure even earlier and, averaging only half a dozen matches a year, all these figures are formidable for contemporary players.

Only in a World Cup year can the Italians be expected to persuade the players away from their clubs for anything like ten or 12 matches and this accounts for the relatively low figures set by contemporary players.

Boniperti was the big star in Italy in the post-war period but he has since been overtaken by the Internazionale full-back, Giacinto Facchetti, and Gianni Rivera will probably overhaul him in 1969.

Given freedom from serious injury, both Facchetti and Rivera should have an even chance of setting a new all-time record figure.

Italy's best period was undoubtedly the middle '30s when they twice won the World Cup under the inspiring leadership of the late Vittorio Pozzo. A journalist for the last 20 years, Pozzo died in Torino last December, aged 82.

Even during their golden era, the Italians were never loath to include one or two *oriundi* — foreign-born stars of Italian descent — usually imported from South America. The process was repeated after the Second War but never with quite the same success as that experienced in the '30s.

In addition to taking two World Cup series, Pozzo's *Squadra Azzura* went unbeaten through more than four years between October 1935 and November 1939, by which time the war had effectively put an end to open competition.

After winning the 1934 World Cup the Italians travelled to London to meet England, still at that time the acknowledged masters, though not being members of FIFA they had been unable (and were probably unwilling) to take part in the World Cup.

Alec Brook (two) and Ted Drake scored for England and after being three down the Italians scored twice through Meazza to lose 3-2.

Later that same month they were also beaten in Prague, where the team they had beaten in the 1934 World Cup Final gained their revenge by 2-1.

Then followed the Italians' four-year run of unbroken success which included a 4-2 win over Hungary in the 1938 World Cup Final in Paris. In those four glorious years the Italians played 30 matches, winning 24 and drawing six. They were finally beaten by the Swiss in Zurich (3-1) a few weeks after the commencement of the Second World War and also went down 5-2 to Germany a week later.

Although the Italians have been more than ordinarily successful over the years they have never beaten England in nine encounters. Neither have they managed to beat Uruguay or North Korea, but having played each side only once it would be unwise to place these two sides in the same category as England, who certainly seem to have acquired the status of a bogey team for Italy.

Northern Ireland inflicted one of the least pleasant reverses on the Italians when they eliminated them from the 1958 World Cup, but the disastrous showing in the 1966 World Series marked the poorest period in the Italians' history.

Beaten by Russia 1-0, and then eliminated by unfancied North Korea, who also beat them 1-0, the Italian party was molested by the public and pelted with fruit on their arrival home from England.

Officially it was the team manager, Dr. Edmondo Fabbri, who was forced to accept responsibility for this failure, for following an FA investigation into the causes behind Italy's prestige-shattering defeat, he was suspended by the FA for one season.

In the autumn of 1966 the present manager, Ferrucio Valcareggi, was appointed by the FA, initially to work with Helenio Herrera, then coach of Internazionale.

After less than a season, Herrera resigned to leave Valcareggi in sole command and under his guidance Italy won the 1968 European Championship in somewhat fortuitous circumstances. Playing host for the final stages, the Italians drew 0-0 with Russia but won the toss and then drew after extra time with Yugoslavia in the final. Three days later Italy won the replay 2-0 against a Yugoslav XI depleted by injuries.

During his term of little more than two years, Valcareggi certainly seems to have restored the confidence of the Italian players and rebuilt the morale shattered by the North Koreans. His record to date in 16 matches is: won 10, drawn 5 and lost only 1. This sole defeat, 3-2 away to Bulgaria, was by no means a disaster for *libero* Armando Picchi was seriously injured in that match and for much of the game the *squadra* were forced to play with only ten men.

In January Valcareggi took his team to Mexico, where they played two matches in conditions similar to those that will be experienced in 1970. Winning 3-2 and drawing 1-1 against the host country, it seems clear that he has at his disposal players who could do well in the next world series.

	League leaders	Last year's position	Position of champions and No. of points behind leaders	Best placed promoted club
Austria (HS)	FK Austria	3	2. Rapid—2 pts.	12. Wacker
Belgium	Standard Liege	3	2. Anderlecht—3 pts.	7. La Gantoise
Bulgaria (HS)	CSKA Sofia	2	2. Levski—3 pts.	10. Dunav
Czechos'kia (HS)	Spartak Trnava	1	1. Spartak Trnava—4 ahead	8. Pardubice
Denmark (CC)	KB Kopenh'gen	7	9. Akademisk—9 pts.	4. B.1913 Odense
E. Germany (HS)	Vorwaerts	4	4. Carl Zeiss Jena—4 pts.	11. Dyn'mo Berlin
England	Leeds Utd.	4	14. Manchester City—23 pts.	17. Ipswich
Eire	Shamrock R.	4	2. Waterford—2 pts.	None
France	St. Etienne	1	1. St. Etienne—3 ahead	16. Nimes
Greece	Panathinaikos	3	2. AEK Athens—2 pts.	15. Chalkis
Holland	Feijenoord	2	3. Ajax Amsterdam—7 pts.	11. Holland Sport
Hungary (CC)	Ferencvaros	1	1. Ferencvaros—1 ahead	9. Egyetertes
Iceland (CC)	KR Reykjavik	2	3. Valur—5 pts.	None
Italy	AC Milan	1	1. AC Milan—on goal av.	8. Verona
Luxembourg	Jeunesse Esch	1	1. Jeunesse Esch—on goal av.	10. Grevenmacher
N. Ireland (CC)	Linfield	2	3. Glentoran—5 pts.	None
Norway (CC)	Lyn Oslo	3	2. Rosenborg—4 pts.	3. Viking
Poland (HS)	Górnik Zabrze	3	8. Ruch Chorzów—9 pts.	12. ROW Rybnik
Portugal	Porto	3	2. Benfica—2 pts.	9. Uniao Tomar
Rumania (HS)	UT Arad	4	11. Steaua—9 pts.	3. Politehnica
Russia (CC)	Dynamo Kiev	1	1. Dynamo Kiev—5 ahead	20. Dy. Kirowab'd
Scotland	Celtic	1	1. Celtic—4 ahead	6. St. Mirren
Spain	Real Madrid	1	1. Real Madrid—7 ahead	8. Coruna
Sweden (CC)	Oester	–	2. Malmoe—on goal diff.	1. Oester
Switzerland (HS)	Lausanne	4	3. Zürich—3 pts.	10. St. Gallen
W. Germany	Bayern Munich	5	18. Nürnberg—13 pts.	12. K. Offenbach
Yugoslavia (HS)	Dy'mo Zagreb	3	2. Red Star Belgrade—5 pts.	12. Celik

N.B. HS—denotes half-way stage (winter break).
CC—means championship completed.

Searching the Soccer Scene

Champions' mixed fortunes

with ARTHUR ROTMIL

JUST over 50 per cent of the champion clubs in Europe still have a chance of defending their crown successfully. As the race for honours is drawing to a close, six title-holders are leading in their respective leagues while two others have already repeated last year's triumph—Ferencvaros of Hungary and Dynamo Kiev in Russia—where the programme runs on a spring-to-autumn basis. So far, only one newly promoted club also swept to a championship—Oester of Sweden.

Leaders Spartak Trnava, St. Etienne, AC Milan, Jeunesse Esch, Celtic and Real Madrid are poised to repeat their triumph, whilst the hopes of Rapid Vienna, Anderlecht, Levski, Sofia, Waterford, AEK Athens, Benfica and Zürich are still very much alive. Five champions, however, Ajax Amsterdam, Ruch Chorzow, Steaua Bucharest, Red Star Belgrade and Carl Zeiss Jena can only pray for some miraculous slips of the pacemakers, but seven teams, Akademisk Copenhagen, Manchester City, Valur Reykjavik, Glentoran Belfast, Rosenborg Trondheim, Malmoe and Nürnberg have either already lost their titles or are virtually out of the race.

The most dramatic fall from grace is seen in West Germany where champions Nürnberg are currently at the bottom. Two further big disappointments are Manchester City in England and Ajax Amsterdam in Holland from whom better performances were expected.

Since it is not possible to publish the European league tables in full, the quick-at-a-glance chart above should help readers to assess the general position in 27 European countries.

Portugal Pressure

Portugal's hopes of World Cup qualification received a nasty jolt in their 2-4 defeat by Greece at Athens. But perhaps it wasn't such a big surprise after all, for the Hellenes have shown improved form at home where in their last three games they beat Austria and Egypt by the identical score of 4-1 and lost only narrowly to Russia 0-1.

The Portuguese press and sporting public have attacked national manager, Dr. Antunes, for fielding too many old hands and a rather stale Benfica forward line who have been playing under continuous pressure for some years now, not only in national colours but also for their club in championship, European Cup and numerous friendly matches. In Athens, however, it was not so much the attack that failed but their defence which let in four goals. Admittedly, one of those was an own-goal by centre-forward (!) José Torres who, following a corner, leapt higher than anybody—which is not surprising, since he stands 6 ft. 4 in.—and headed ... into his own net. Maybe he forgot at which end of the field he was standing at the time. Nonetheless, the thundering cheers with which the fanatical audience greeted his effort were well merited for according to local connoisseurs it was the greatest own-goal ever seen in this country!

Undismayed by this set-back but no doubt prompted by the wave of criticism, Dr. Antunes is forming a squad of 30 young players who will have several trial games and prepare at Vale de Lobos (Wolves' Valley) before a team is selected to play in England in an Under-23 international on April 16. Some of them may even get an earlier chance in the full "A" team which is due to meet Mexico in Lisbon on April 6, but without the Benfica stars. The club have been invited to a friendly by Desportivo de Porto Alegre of Brazil for the opening of their new stadium. A week later, the national side will play the Under-23 team in a final trial before Portugal receive Switzerland in their World Cup qualifier at Lisbon on April 16. Whether these preparations will help Dr. Antunes to find the right blend remains debatable.

In any case the situation in this group is still wide open. Each country has won its opening home game but now the Portuguese are worried about Rumania, the Rumanians are scared of the Greeks, the Swiss seem to be afraid of everybody else and only the Greeks, having tasted blood, claim to fear no one. We shall know more after April 16 when, apart from the Portugal v. Switzerland encounter, Greece entertain Rumania.

Unbeaten Record

The forgotten art of scoring goals is at last receiving the publicity it deserves even in Britain's national press. Leading the crusade is my favourite sports columnist, Jim Manning of the Daily Mail, *who recently described goals as museum pieces of English football. But the goal famine is just as acute in Europe's next most professional soccer countries, Italy and Spain.*

On January 10, the Daily Mail *published the scoring averages which I compiled for them, embracing 26 European leagues. From these figures it appears that the strongest and most professional divisions also show the lowest scoring ratio, due no doubt to the so-called method-football, defensive attitudes and the negative quest to destroy rather than create. True enough, on February 2, the Spanish League reached a catastrophic low when only eight goals were scored in eight matches. Half of them came from one side—Barcelona—whilst 11 teams failed to score! On the same day, eight Italian First Division games produced nine goals and not one team scored more than once!*

Manchester City centre-forward Mike Summerbee cleverly beats Ipswich Town full-back Billy Houghton during a First Division match at Maine Road this season. City, champions last term, are not even in the hunt for the title this year. (Green)

The only consolation is that in the absence of scoring forwards, the goal-keepers are now basking in unexpected glory. Recently, Italian custodian Marcello Trevisan established a new record by remaining unbeaten for 1,266 minutes. Trevisan, who plays for Third Division team Massese, kept his goal intact in 21 hours and six minutes of football during 14 games! The record was reached in an away match at Jesi, which ended 0-0. Massese kept second place in the table with 26 points from 20 games and goal figures of 13-4.

Since Da Pozzo of Genoa created a record of 791 minutes back in the 1963–64 season, eight Italian custodians have surpassed his figure: Vincenzi (Venezia, 1965–66)—unbeaten in 867 minutes; Chirico (Crotone, 1965–66)—914 minutes; Recchia (Formia, 1968–69)—939 minutes; Tancredi (Sanbenedettese, 1967–68)—958 minutes; Basiani (Siena, 1965–66)—1,064 minutes; Boesso (Savoia, 1964–65)—1,180 minutes; Corsinovi (Acireale, 1967–68)—1,228. And now, Trevisan.

Popular England!

England's national side, despite its meagre results, is still drawing the largest crowds for home and away matches in Europe. Statistics for the past 12 months show that England's ten internationals, six of them away from home, were watched by a total of 846,000 fans—for an average of 84,600 per game.

Next in popularity are Italy, whose aggregate attendances of 445,000 in six games produced an average of 74,166. They were followed by Russia, who totalled 508,000—average 72,570, and Bulgaria, who drew 290,000 and averaged 72,500. Note that Hungary can claim an average of 91,500, but they played only two matches during 1968, both against Russia in the European championship quarter-finals.

The average gate at an international in Europe was 39,000. European national teams were involved in 101 matches, which produced 293 goals—nearly three per game. Highest scores were Yugoslavia's 9-1 win over Finland and Poland's 8-0 victory against Turkey. Referees most in demand came from Switzerland, Sweden and West Germany—each handling eight games.

England gates:

Scotland v. England	134,000
England v. Spain	100,000
Spain v. England	100,000
England v. Sweden	72,000
West Germany v. England	80,000
Yugoslavia v. England (in Florence)	30,000
Russia v. England (in Rome)	100,000
Rumania v. England	70,000
England v. Bulgaria	80,000
England v. Rumania	80,000
Total	846,000

GATES DOWN

from EDWARD SHALALA

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE attendances were down in South Africa last season. The aggregate was 1,806,220 against 1,903,495 the previous year.

However, when it is realised that last year the league consisted of 14 clubs against 16 in 1967, the drop is easily accounted for, and, in fact, the average gate rose last year.

The nearest soccer attendances have come to 2,000,000 was in 1966, with 1,978,000.

Mr. Dave Marais, MP, the chairman of the National Football League, has forecast that the total will rise above 2,000,000 this year.

With a First Division of 16 clubs this year and a new national Second Division, there is some justification for his belief that the two-million mark will be topped for the first time in the ten-year history of professional soccer in South Africa.

The tenth birthday of the National Football League will be celebrated at a banquet to be held at Wanderers, Johannesburg, in July this year.

Willie Watson, who played soccer for England when with Huddersfield Town and Sunderland, and also played for his country at cricket, has been appointed stadium manager to the Wanderers club in Johannesburg. In this capacity he will allocate and co-ordinate the use of the stadium and other club ground facilities. He will also assist in coaching activities at both games.

Ken Taylor, the 33-year-old former Huddersfield soccer player and Yorkshire and England batsman, has taken up a teaching post at the Rondebosch Boys' High School in Cape Town.

Frank Lord, the new manager of Cape Town City, has signed Tony Brimacombe, an English Amateur international forward and is on the lookout for at least four more British players. Latest signing for Cape Town is John Rowland, a centre-forward from Torquay United.

Durban United, who are managed by 24-year-old George Moonie, ex-Airdrieonians, have signed Paul Durrant, the Sligo Rovers utility forward; Jim McManus (Falkirk); Cliff Portwood (Portsmouth); Tom Martin (Carlisle United); Bryan Orrit (Middlesbrough); Alex Hamilton (Scotland); Adam Thomson (Ayr United); Barry Rowan (Colchester United); and Johnny Brooks (Sheffield Wednesday and Cleveland).

Rhodesia's "bobby-dazzler" — South African soccer import Bobby Chalmers — watches his header flash past three Malawi defenders and the post during the Rhodesia-Malawi international in Salisbury. His team-mate is Gibson Homela and the Malawi defenders are goalkeeper Kumbatira, Moyo (5) and Bwandali (4).

CHALMERS—A GIFT!

As part of their preparations for their World Cup qualification matches, Rhodesia played a series of matches against Malawi. World Soccer's correspondent in Salisbury sent this report.

From NORMAN ADAMS

IT was Danny Blanchflower, during his South African soccer safari a few years back, who said: "Bobby Chalmers is a gift from God." Rhodesia feels the same right now about the chunky, goal-grabbing boy from Bulawayo.

Bobby, imported from South African pro league club Martizburg City, was the star of Rhodesia's five matches against Malawi, played in Blantyre-Limbe and Salisbury within nine days.

The experiment to bring 23-year-old Chalmers to Malawi and Rhodesia was a complete success, although the matches were the first since he had played since last April when he tore ligaments and had cartilage trouble in his left leg. Chalmers, who was with Durban United and Durban City before moving to Maritzburg City last year, strode confidently through the four-and-a-half games in Central Africa. He had his name taken—rather unfairly—but scored two vital goals.

When he moved to Maritzburg for a £10,000 fee his goal tally was over the 230 mark—about 60 short of a national record. The Football Association of Rhodesia insured him for £10,000 during the trip—and he plainly showed why.

Bobby flew from Durban to Salisbury to join his team mates and an hour later they were on their way to Blantyre, where they played that night in floodlit Kamuzu Stadium in a match billed as Malawi FA v. FAR XI. The result was a disappointing 0-0 draw. The Rhodesians had their chances and in the first half Mangula's right-winger Phillemon Phiri struck an upright.

The following day we flew 200 miles north to Lilongwe, the site of Malawi's future capital, for what was to have been the first full international.

But after giant Kamuzu Stadium, the Lilongwe pitch with its hessian-enclosed fence, crooked goalposts and poor surface, looked like a cow park. After the team bosses and referee got together it was decided to make the match a friendly.

Rhodesia scored in five minutes through Mashonaland United's left-winger Gibson Homela, but three minutes after the interval they were 2-1 down. The goal-burst that had the small crowd jumping for joy on to the pitch began a minute after the re-start. A player called Poison flashed a low cross into the Rhodesian goal where skipper and Gwelo United sweeper Pete Haddon deflected the ball past former Salisbury Callies team-mate goalkeeper Rob Jordan. Two minutes later Malawi jumped into the lead. Their danger man Chibambo found ex-Rhodesian player Roy Cook on the left and his 25-yard daisy-cutter shot under Adolf Mutuma's boot and sneaked in at Jordan's right-hand post.

Rhodesia were rattled, but moments later big Pete Haddon changed from a soccer sinner to saint when he headed home a Nelson Mapara corner to make it 2-2, the final score.

Less than 24 hours later Pete repeated his goal-scoring act in just seven minutes of the second international at Kamuzu. Eight thousand Malawi fans, confident of a shock win, were stunned as he rose above their defenders to ram Mapara's flag-kick with his head into the net for the only goal of the game.

HIGHLIGHTED

Two other dramatic moments highlighted this match. Mapara missed a penalty kick—minutes after substitute goalkeeper Leotta took over from Kapamula, badly injured in a collision with Chalmers.

Bobby had little support in Malawi and was continually shadowed by four defenders. But when he returned from Durban to Salisbury for the home internationals he soon shook off his red and green shadows.

In the first game at Gwanzura Stadium, the Rhodesians were three ahead in 19 minutes. Gibson Homela got the first two off inch-perfect crosses from Chalmers, then he returned the compliment for the Maritzburg centre to head the third. Bulawayo Sables' James Nxumalo scored number four from outside the penalty box in the second period.

Malawi left three top players behind—keeper Henry Kapamula, right-half Prince Nyirenda, both injured, and captain Oliver Nakhumwa, dropped for disciplinary reasons.

But when they named their team for the final game at Gwanzura, the day after the 4-0 drubbing, they included four schoolboys who obviously had done their homework. For the Malawi team blanketed out the Rhodesians who, although they had their chances, scrambled to a 1-1 draw. Yasin Osman scored in 20 minutes from a penalty—the only direct Malawi shot in the whole game. Then 11 minutes after half-time that man Chalmers, although battered and bruised by his shadow Moyo, forced home the equaliser from a Nxumalo cross.

National coach Danny McLennan is pleased the way his squad is shaping, but knows there must be a vast improvement before Rhodesia take off for South Korea. The games brought out the best in Callies' sweeper Martin Kennedy, Pete Haddon and forwards Phiri, Mapara and Homela.

But if McLennan's plan to bring in African Freddie Mkwesha from Portugal works the tall goal-scoring pro will combine well with Chalmers. Because of the political climate in Rhodesia, there is little opportunity for the Rhodesians to play stiff African sides. But warm-up games may be arranged against Angola and Mozambique soon.

The 1969 season started in February—with the 1970 Super League the bait for eight national teams at the end of this year.

MALAWI

MAGNIFICENT Kamuzu Stadium is the bright shining jewel in Malawi's soccer crown. Four huge banks of floodlighting shine brilliantly down on the concrete cantilever stands which will hold 92,000 when completed. But there is a snag (writes NORMAN ADAMS).

For the tragedy of this showpiece stadium in the heart of Blantyre-Limbe is the pitch. It is on a camber and during rainy seasons an underground spring bubbles up through the patchy turf.

During the Rhodesia-Malawi internationals at Kamuzu—named after President Hastings Banda—goalkeepers made "do-or-drown" saves at one goal, turned into a soggy 20-yard square patch by the spring. Thousands have been spent by the Malawi Government to get rid of the trouble, without results.

The three home games against Rhodesia were a financial success, grossing £1,600. The final match at Kamuzu attracted 8,000 fans (they paid £860)—the biggest paying crowd in the game's history in Malawi, formerly Nyasaland. There have been bigger attendances at soccer matches—30,000 to 40,000 watched West Ham, Oldham and Kenya—but the fans were allowed in free.

Malawi are no longer the chopping blocks of African football. Thanks to Mr. Ray Batchelor, their director of sport and national soccer coach.

OH! THAT PITCH . . .

Last year they drew 2-2 with a powerful Kenya side, for whom Ray once coached and played. They travelled to a tournament in Swaziland, hammering Botswana 8-2, but went down 0-2 to the home country.

League soccer in the small country is forging ahead. At Lilongwe the local Dynamos club are so keen they travel 112 miles to Dedza for a HOME match—they don't have a suitable pitch of their own.

Malawi's youth policy is ahead of their near neighbours Rhodesia. Four schoolboys — 16-year-old goalkeeper Kumbatira, who plays for Chichiri, defenders Kutengule and Moyo, and left-winger Poyah—were in their side which drew 1-1 in Salisbury. The schoolboys recently toured Zambia.

Now plans are being made to stage Malawi-Rhodesia youth internationals. Rhodesia does not have a schools XI.

But the Rhodesian episode had an unhappy ending. It was due to that deadly cocktail of mixing sport with politics.

Before the Malawi team left for Salisbury President Banda's party newspaper, *Malawi News*, pressed for a Government probe into allegations of racialism in the Malawi FA. The paper claimed that the African members of the FA Committee were constantly being over-ruled.

Five-team league

from Colin Jose

THE North American Soccer League will operate a five-team league this season, and each of the member organisations will also be assigned one foreign team to represent them in an international league competition; this was the outcome of a meeting of the owners held in St. Louis recently.

Atlanta, Baltimore, Dallas, Kansas City and St. Louis are the cities which will be participating, and there is the possibility of a sixth city being added. Last season the NASL operated with 17 teams.

The international micro league will start on May 1, and the regular NASL schedule will not begin until after it has been completed. Under such an arrangement and noting the reluctance of the league to run any kind of a league competition at all one cannot help but wonder if failure of the micro league will mean cancellation of the regular schedule.

Being mentioned in connection with the so-called international part of the schedule are the English Second Division clubs Aston Villa and Birmingham City, the Scottish First Division club Kilmarnock, and the Scottish Second Division club Dumbarton. It is understood that both Manchester United and Hibernian were approached but the terms offered were far from suitable.

With all due respect to the clubs being mentioned they are hardly the type of teams one would consider as being best suited to promoting soccer in this area of the world and the absence of big name stars to sell to the fans will be a definite drawback.

The appearance of Aston Villa on the list is quite a surprise in one sense but not so in another. Villa's present manager Tommy Docherty said following Chelsea's tour of the United States in 1967 when he was the manager of the London club: "It was the worst tour I've ever been on. The organisation was chaotic and the refereeing disgraceful." He added: "I'd love to go back to America—for a holiday. It's not the place for football though."

On the other hand, Aston Villa have close ties with the Atlanta Chiefs who are the leaders of the present operation, and during the recent crisis at the Birmingham club the Atlanta organisation tried to buy Villa. Phil Woosnam, the executive director of the NASL, is an old Aston Villa player, as are Vic Crowe and Vic Rouse, who have taken over the coaching duties with the Chiefs now that Woosnam has taken on an executive role. Obviously they were able to overcome Docherty's objections.

Despite the announcement by the league from St. Louis, Bill Bergesch, general manager of the New York Generals, said in New York recently that he doubted that the league would receive the sanction of the United States Soccer Football Association.

Bergesch explained that "When the men now running the NASL first suggested a revised set-up for 1969 to the USSFA they said they would have eight teams, not five, and that it would be a full professional operation." He continued: "Now the NASL wants to operate with five teams, and a $75 per week limit in paying players. This is semi-pro soccer."

The Generals who were one of the eight teams originally interested in the resumption of league play, declined to join the new loop as a result of the wage ceiling, and the club now feels that the USSFA will reject the latest proposal thereby forcing the NASL to operate as a full-time major professional league.

Apart from the usual complicated situation in the NASL the American Soccer League continues to plan for the season ahead. Cincinnati are the latest city to show an interest, and now it looks as if Philadelphia will have two teams in the league, the Ukrainian Nationals and the Spartans, while the Chicago Mustangs formerly of the NASL are showing an interest.

John Kowalik, the leading scorer in the NASL last season, has been transferred to the California Clippers. Kowalik, who joined the Chicago Mustangs from the Polish club Kracow, scored 30 goals in 28 games last season. In the Clippers' first game of the year they beat the Mexican club Atlas 3-0 before a meagre crowd of 5,000 in San Francisco.

Eddie Barker, a member of the Toronto Falcons squad.

ARE DRAWS

European Commentary by GORDON JEFFERY

THE fairly regular flow of comment—much of it justified—about the increasing number of drawn matches in English football and a decline in the scoring rate—that may be the cause or the effect, or neither, of the increased number of draws, set me firstly to a look at the facts so far as the Football League was concerned and then to a wider view taking in four other professional leagues—those of Spain, Italy, West Germany and France.

Statistics, despite that they are fact and not opinion, can be made, we are often told, to prove anything and should be treated with considerable caution, if not ignored. There is some substance in that argument but considerably less than giving credence to opinions that are not (probably cannot be) supported by facts. And the results (some of which I have tabulated as shown) of breaking down the scores of all the First Division matches played to the middle of February 1969 in these five major national leagues do rather confound, I think, some generally held opinions—some of which may have been correct ten seasons ago but are only doubtfully possible today.

Collection

In particular, perhaps, the idea that in Spain and, to a slightly lesser extent in Italy, the First Division clubs can be divided between three or four top ones of European class and a collection of make-weights who were existing on the crumbs from the top clubs' tables—and playing grimly amongst themselves to snatch the precious points that would keep them in the First Division with its bigger attendances (and larger cash receipts) from the visits of the big clubs like Real Madrid and Barcelona or Juventus and Inter-Milan.

I am doubtful whether the facts about this season's results support that opinion. It is true that in Spain, Real Madrid continue to dominate—they were unbeaten in the first half of the present season and are still unbeaten with seven matches played in the second half, and it is still something of a pipe-dream to expect one of the provincial clubs to win the Spanish championship. Yet clubs, as Las Palmas this season for example, have seriously challenged Real, whilst in Italy, Cagliari continue to keep either in front of AC Milan and Fiorentina or level-pegging with them. There is, I think, enough evidence to accept that restrictions on the importation of foreign players by the wealthy few in Spain and Italy has encouraged the development of "home" youngsters and is bringing about a much-to-be-desired spread of ability over several clubs.

That is incidental, however, to my main intention in listing all the match results under the particular scores ranging from 0-0 in all five countries to the highest aggregated score of 5-3 in Spain, 1-6 in Italy, 6-1 in West Germany, 8-3 in France and 8-0 and 7-1 in England. The resultant table is too big and perhaps too confusing to warrant reproduction here but readers can make their own interpretations from the smaller summary that does accompany this article showing the percentage of matches that are drawn; decided by a single goal margin (whether 1-0 or 5-4); goalless; decided by more than two goals margin; and so on.

The merit of statistics rests with how they are, in fact, interpreted. The sort of reasoning to be set against the facts as shown by the table is, in my opinion (but this is open to debate), as follows—that the *closeness of* the standard of play as between clubs in the First Division of a national league shows itself in the incidence of drawn matches and of odd goal victories (or defeats); that the disparity in ability of clubs shows in the number of matches won by large margins. But both contentions are rather too simple and need to be qualified.

Decisions

If it is accepted that drawn matches and odd goal decisions show a *similarity* of standard of play, they still do not give any indication as to what that standard is—a high level or a low one. It could be argued that a large number of low-scoring draws and a minority of high-scoring draws indicates a lack of scoring ability and that, therefore, the standard of play is poor. On the other hand the same circumstances could be argued in support of the view that the clubs were so good that they provided few opportunities for their opponents to score and that, therefore, the standard of play was uniformly high. Generally I think that if the standard of play is fairly uniform, then few goals rather than many are an indication of a good standard. Put another way I think there are probably more defensive mistakes in a match ending 5-3 than attacking errors, or missed scoring chances, in one that ended 1-1.

Assessing from statistics the disparity between clubs is more difficult than would seem to be the case. Even if my reasoning that this disparity would show in the number of matches won by large margins is accepted, it needs to be appreciated that if there were, for example, two very poor sides in a division of 18 clubs who lost *every* match heavily except the two amongst themselves, the resultant heavy defeats would only show statistically as 14% of the overall total of matches.

The same percentage would result from there being two exceptionally good clubs in a similarly sized division but the number of large margin wins would rise to rather more than half if the 18 clubs in the division were equally divided between good and bad.

The five national leagues I have considered are all fully professional with clubs needing to survive in their First Divisions not so much because of prestige as from sheer economic necessity, and all aware of the fact (more fact than opinion with such an overwhelming weight of evidence to support it) that a successful club attracts larger attendances than an unsuccessful one and success, in football, means position in the First Division table. It is points more than play that matters and, as every one of the 90 clubs knows, every match kicks off with a point in the possession of each of the two contestants. It becomes then a matter of tactic whether it is then considered that a goal scored means two points instead of one, or that a goal prevented keeps that single original point intact.

Assumption

Starting from the assumption that two cautious sides more committed to retaining a point in a goalless match than to risking losing it in the quest of gaining both points, will produce more 0-0 results than less defensively minded clubs, then it is, predictably perhaps, the Italians who show up worse. No fewer than 14.81% of their First Division matches played to date have been goalless: more than one in every seven matches. Spain with 12.65% (rather more than one in eight) follow, then France with 11.30% (one in nine), England with 8.58% (one in nearly 12) and lastly West Germany with

South American Commentary

● *Continued from page 29*

per group. For the coming 1970 championship the South Americans have to compete for three final places with none exempt from qualifying as host or holder. Ten have entered and, unless there are any withdrawals, there will thus be one four-strong group — Group 11 made up of Brazil, Venezuela, Colombia and Paraguay. In Group 10 are Argentina, Peru and Bolivia and in Group 12, Uruguay, Chile and Ecuador. Partly because of the absence of many qualifying matches in the past, and partly because the "big three" have been placed in different groups, few of these have met before in opposition in the World Cup competition. In the accompanying table in which I have set out the full World Cup match record of each 1970 South American entrant, I show in block capitals where contenders in opposition in the July/August qualifying matches have met before. As things stand it seems that Argentina have the easiest passage, Brazil might be a little troubled by Paraguay and Uruguay could just possibly slip up against Chile.

INCREASING?

7.18% (one in 14 and less than half the Italian goalless rate).

But what of the other argument—that drawn matches mean a closeness of competition and of playing standards? Taking all drawn matches into consideration it is England that shows the most, albeit only narrowly more than the Italians—30.69% compared with 30.57%. It both the Football League and the Italian First Divisions this season, in other words, almost one in every third match has been drawn. But the figure is not very much lower for France (29.38%), Spain (28.31%) and West Germany (26.67%). Almost enough to assert that in those five national leagues there is a marked absence of minnows.

Most likely

Draws seem most likely to occur when both sides are pleased to gain one point from a match. There have been two or three "classic" cases in the World Cup and the Olympics where, despite the playing of extra time, both sides have made it obvious that they were going to settle for the draw that gave both qualification for the next stage rather than reach the outright result that would let a third placed association edge above the loser. Generally, however, I doubt whether there are many connived draws—the possibility of a lucky (or unlucky) late goal is always too real.

The single goal margin of victory is an increasing feature of First Division results in the leagues I have considered. England's looks large with 33.33%, exactly one-third, of the matches being decided by that narrowest of margins. Yet England's is, in fact, the lowest of the five leagues. In France only slightly more (33.90%) matches have been decided by the odd-goal margin but 39.15% in Spain, 40.00% in West Germany and 42.96% in Italy—say, two out of every five matches in those last three named countries compared with two out of every six in England and France.

Adding together the matches drawn and those decided by a single goal margin accounts for four out of every five matches in the Italian First Division, about two out of every three in Spain and West Germany and nearly as many in England and France. The number of matches decided by more than two goals margin (3-0, 4-1, etc.) are in reverse order as one might expect, but there is a significant jump from the percentages of Italy (14.81%), Spain (15.66%), West Germany (15.90%) and England (17.16%) to that of France (26.55%)—or more than one in every fourth match.

Qualification

Does that mean freer scoring in France? A more attacking approach? Other statistics do not suggest this—in both West Germany and England, for example, there are less matches that result in only one goal or no goal at all being scored. The inference is that either there is more disparity in standards in the French First Division than in the other four First Divisions or that the French better clubs are more disposed to increase winning margins. It is interesting to note that no club to-date has scored more than five goals in a Spanish First Division match (and in only six of the first 166 matches played did one side score even five goals). Real Madrid are, as I have mentioned, unbeaten but even they have shown what I take to be a reluctance more than an inability to run up big scores—they can boast of one of 5-3 (but that is only a two-goal margin of victory) at home and one of 4-2 in their favour away from Madrid.

In Spain as a whole, more than one-third of the First Division matches (34.94%) ended with no more than one goal having been scored. But the famine was worse in Italy—40.74%. England on 22.44% shows up best for those seeking goals in this group but they lose ground when the yardstick is matches with two or less goals—half of the English First Division matches (50.49%) fall into that group compared with 46.67% in West Germany, 48.59% in France and, rather more, 54.82% in Spain. The real jump comes with the Italians—exactly 60% of their first 135 matches produced two or fewer goals. England's change from the division least prone to one goal or less matches to one more likely than the First Divisions of West Germany and France to result in no more than two goals being scored, arises from their exceptionally large number of matches in which two goals are scored (28.05%)—and in most of those the two goals are shared.

One-all is the most common First Division Football League match result this season—it occurs twice as much as the next most common (0-0 and 2-0).

Peter Osgood of Chelsea has scored some wonderful goals for his club of late despite having more mid-field responsibility. But 1-1 is the most common First Division result. (McLennan)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G
England	30.69%	33.33%	8.58%	22.44%	50.49%	28.05%	17.16%
France	29.38%	33.90%	11.30%	29.38%	48.59%	19.21%	26.55%
W.Germ'y	26.67%	40.00%	7.18%	25.13%	46.67%	21.54%	15.90%
Italy	30.37%	42.96%	14.81%	40.74%	60.00%	19.26%	14.81%
Spain	28.31%	39.15%	12.65%	34.94%	54.82%	19.88%	15.66%

A—Percentage of drawn matches
B—Percentage of odd-goal results
C—Percentage of goalless matches
D—Percentage of matches with one goal or less scored
E—Percentage of matches with two goals or less scored
F—Percentage of matches with two goals scored
G—Percentage of matches decided by more than two goals margin

EUROPEAN LEAGUES REVIEW by ROGER MACDONALD

A MONTH OF ODDITIES

FOR Ajax Amsterdam and Manchester United, an extraordinary month of ups and downs; for Rapid Vienna, a sobering rebound to reality; for AEK Athens, a glimpse of European Cup glory. Celtic battle against a blizzard in Milan; Henrique, of Benfica, has a half-hour of agony in Paris; Real Madrid, out of Europe, extend their unbeaten league run to a prodigious 24 matches; Leeds United take a commanding lead in England, but are given a rude awakening by Ujpest Dozsa in the Fairs Cup; Borussia Dortmund regain their poise in West Germany; St. Etienne and Nice go out of the French Cup.

Manchester United's passage into their fifth European Cup semi-final—and in five attempts, a remarkably consistent record—was truly a triumph over a fixture list that would have made most Continental players go weak at the knees. Apart from a continued and exacting league programme, United found themselves forced to play four cup-ties—two European, two in the FA competition—in 11 days, against Birmingham City, Everton and, of course twice against Rapid. Celtic, too, found their fixtures piling up like letters in the in-tray of an absent executive. So much so, that if the best came to the best, their international stars would be called upon to take part in 29 competitive matches in little over three months.

Contrast the easy programme of the remaining six quarter-finalists in the European Cup. Apart from their European ties, none of them had a competitive game in midweek. In fact, the only one of the six to play even a midweek friendly were Rapid, short of match practice, who met Anderlecht in Brussels on the Friday prior to their trip to Manchester. As they lost 3-0 against an Anderlecht side lacking all seven of their international players, it seems safe to assume that the game was not taken very seriously.

Benfica played Sunday cup and league fixtures, while their opponents, Ajax, did not even turn out at all until the Saturday in an advanced league game before the play-off in Paris. Heavy snow, waterlogged pitches and the skating championships at Deventer gave them a completely free hand to concentrate on their European programme. AC Milan brought forward two league games, against Pisa and Atalanta, to give themselves an extra 24 hours to prepare for the great task of toppling Celtic. AEK Athens fulfilled a league match each week; Spartak Trnava played two friendlies with Prague clubs, because the midwinter break was still in operation in Czechoslovakia.

It is with a certain malevolent satisfaction, therefore, that one recalls how many of the six suffered from injuries in spite of the series of soft options they took up in February and March. Rapid's Ewald Ullmann pulled a tendon in their first league match for months, a 2-0 win over Salzburg, and missed the second leg against Manchester United. Mario Coluna was hurt in Benfica's goalless draw with Sporting Lisbon and was unable to play against Ajax in Paris. AC Milan left Angelo Sormani and Giovanni Trapattoni out of their party travelling to Glasgow for the second leg against Celtic; Sormani had his shoulder put in a plaster cast and Trapattoni was suffering from a strained thigh. Both injuries occurred during the league game with Atalanta Bergamo on the previous Saturday.

Of the four quarter-final ties, Ajax's meeting with Benfica was undoubtedly the most sensational. The first leg took place in freezing temperatures and on a snow-covered pitch at Amsterdam, where ball-control rather than stamina was at a premium. Benfica showed that they could play on any surface with the same dexterity of football, and, with Eusebio at the very peak of his form, they cut huge holes in Ajax's defence.

A 3-1 defeat on their own ground made Ajax's position look hopeless. Yet they tore into Benfica from the start and scored three goals in the first half-hour. Danielsson, now named at centre-forward after his fine game in Amsterdam, got the first after just nine minutes, and Cruyff the others with some stunning shooting. Torres put Benfica back on level terms 20 minutes from time, and it was all Ajax could do to hang on for a play-off.

Here, in Paris, the tie stood in the balance, then swung dramatically in Ajax's favour.

The introduction of Danielsson made a sharp difference to Ajax's attack, but they remain an erratic side, capable of too many basic errors in marking and tackling. In the semi-finals, a lot will depend, I think, on the form of Johann Cruyff, on his day a match-winner . . . but so infuriatingly over-confident.

Manchester United disposed of Rapid Vienna so easily that one is tempted to write off Rapid as top-class opponents. United played with such individual and collective brilliance in the first leg that but for Gerald Fuchbichler's stupendous goal-keeping, the score might have been doubled, even trebled. And in Vienna, Rapid showed neither the determination nor the skill to seriously threaten a recovery from a 3-0 deficit. Only when Stepney deflected a shot from Lindmann on to a post, more perhaps by luck than by judgment, did Rapid look like scoring even one goal. United were too well organised to give anything away, and Best and Kidd kept the ball so cleverly when it came upfield that Rapid could never achieve any sustained pressure.

The goalless draw did little for Rapid's morale, and manager Rudolf Vytlacil threatened heavy fines when they lost 1-0 at lowly Bregenz the following Sunday, wasting a chance to take over the leadership from Austria FK, who had lost on the Friday. But Vytlacil is almost certain to resign at the end of the season in favour of Karl Rappan, former national coach of Switzerland. But the present directors, who want Rappan, may be overthrown by Gerhardt Hanappi, who has formed an alliance with one of the most prominent officials, Dr. Schwinger. Add to this, trouble among the players, who opposed Lindman's selection on the ground that there were too many Scandinavians in the team (among other reasons), and you have a club seething with discontent.

And then there were four—Manchester United, Ajax Amsterdam, Spartak Trnava—and, against all the apparent odds, AC Milan. They took all that Celtic could throw at them at Parkhead and emerged to win the match and the tie by a single goal. It came, alas, from an error by McNeill, who received the ball in midfield apparently in no danger. But his sidestep was clumsy and inadequate, Prati made a determined interception, then ran on to shoot neatly past the helpless Fallon.

Two thousand miles away AEK Athens failed narrowly, and gallantly, to become the first Greek side to reach the semi-finals of the European Cup. They had been 2-0 down in the first leg against Spartak at Trnava, then scored a second-half goal in the pouring rain to stay in the tie. But Spartak scored first in front of 45,000 at AEK's new Philadelphia Stadium, through Valer Svec after 21 minutes. AEK had most of the game, but Dimitri Papaioannou's equalising header 12 minutes from time came a long while too late.

NETHERLANDS

AJAX or not, the Dutch championship seems to lie between Feijenoord and Twente, doggedly defying the odds against keeping ahead of the giants. They regained first place with a goalless draw against Sparta in Rotterdam, watched by 30,000 spectators. The critical moment came in the 12th minute when Schrijvers, Twente's goal-keeper, brought down Kleinjan in full flight in the penalty area. Kleinjan took the kick himself and Schrijvers, rising magnificently and appropriately to the occasion, held the ball at full length.

A point saved proved to be a point gained, for Feijenoord were beaten decisively by NAC Breda, 3-1, only their

second defeat of the season. This left Twente (who have still lost only one game, against Feijenoord) one point ahead, with Ajax three points further behind in third place.

But Feijenoord gained adequate compensation for their lapse by beating Ajax on their return from Paris, in a Dutch cup-tie. Both their goals came from the Swedish centre-forward Ove Kindvall, the first in the 35th minute, the second a quarter of an hour from the end. Ajax fought determinedly for much of the match, and equalised through Tony Pronk just before half-time. But not even Danielsson, who put in three shots normally certain to score, could get the ball past Pieters-Graafland again. The Feijenoord goalkeeper had a brilliant match, making save after save when Ajax were on top.

SPAIN

NOT even Atletico Madrid and Barcelona have been able to topple Real, who seem certain to keep the championship and thus play, perpetually, in the European Cup. Just under 120,000 came to Chamartin to see them held to a goalless draw by Atletico Madrid, but Real were unlucky not to win. Rodri made a superb reflex save to turn a header from Grosso away for a corner, and when Amancio did get the ball in the net during the second half, the referee held a conference with a linesman and disallowed the goal incomprehensibly on the ground that Gento was offside.

Barcelona came closer to a win at the Nou Camp, almost their last chance of contesting the title. A capacity crowd, 90,000, saw them take the lead through their captain, Zaldua, in the 70th minute. But 90 seconds from the end Real were awarded a penalty, which Gento converted calmly to save the day. The match went on beyond its appointed time, for the crowd were whistling so furiously that the players could not hear the referee.

ITALY

IT seems strange that anything as unimaginable as goal average could decide the Italian championship, but Fiorentina, Cagliari and AC Milan continue to take it in turns to sneak ahead by a few decimal places. For Cagliari, however, it has been a disappointing month, as they were able to take only three points from a trio of tough opponents—Inter-Milan, Fiorentina and Juventus.

A crowd of 53,000 watched their 1-1 draw at Fiorentina, after being a goal down from the first minute until almost the very last. After Mario Maraschi had scored, Fiorentina piled on the pressure, and there were a number of desperate moments around Cagliari's goal. But three minutes from time Gigi Riva scored for the first time in eight matches to keep his club's championship hopes alive.

They were enhanced the following Sunday by a single-goal win over Inter-Milan. Riva was again the scorer, after 29 minutes, taking a short pass from a free-kick and finding a gap close to the far post. But otherwise he was completely subdued by the immaculate Burgnich, and we had the extraordinary sight of Cagliari's defence marshalled in full *catenaccio* while Inter attacked with five or six forwards, for all the world as though it were some friendly at San Siro rather than a championship game in Sardinia.

JAIME GRACA one of the Benfica men surprised over the club's European Cup exit to Ajax. (Met)

Fiorentina played for and achieved, if that is the correct word, two horrible goalless draws with AC Milan and Bologna, then beat Lanerossi 3-0 while Cagliari were losing at home to a late, unexpected goal from Juventus. So Fiorentina must be slight favourites to take the title.

AC Milan, preoccupied with Celtic, have also had critical troubles with their attack. They were hard put to survive against Inter in a frenetic local derby watched by 80,000 (paying 135,000,000 lire—£90,000, no less) at San Siro. Even without Suarez (suspended) and Domenghini (injured), Inter carried the game to the champions, and took the lead after 51 minutes. The scorer was Mario Corso, who went through AC's outer defences and round the free-back, Malatrasai, in fantastic fashion. It took a fulminating left-foot shot from Prati, almost the only Milan player in touch, to save the derby five minutes from time.

FRANCE

NO double for St. Etienne, eliminated from the French Cup before the quarter-final stage by their closest rivals, Bordeaux. They made a magnificent effort in the second leg, coming from behind to draw 2-2; but the damage was done in the first match by Bordeaux's 1-0 win before 31,000 at St. Etienne. The only goal came in the 20th minute when Calleja intercepted a careless pass by Bosquier and Petyt scored with a fierce shot just under the bar.

The surprise of the round, however, was the elimination of Nice, who beat Gueugnon 3-2 on their own ground then lost 2-0 at home. Gueugnon have an all-amateur team and play on a tiny pitch—for their village in central France has only 8,000 inhabitants.

JOHN STONE looks at the SCOTTISH ANGLE

BREMNER WILL BE VITAL FACTOR . . .

THE game everyone from Glasgow to the Glens has been eagerly awaiting—Scotland v. West Germany—is almost upon us.

Hampden Park will be crammed to capacity on April 16 for a game the Scots readily admit is one they MUST win.

The West Germans, beaten World Cup finalists, realise the importance of this match, in which they will definitely be without the legendary Uwe Seeler, who sticks by his decision of last summer.

Uwe says he no longer wishes to play in international soccer. One of the greatest strikers in Europe in the last decade, he feels he can no longer be relied upon to maintain the tremendously high international level he set himself.

That may be so. Uwe should know his own mind—and capabilities—more than anyone else. But his absence is certainly a boost to the Scots, who had heard repeated suggestions that he would make this match his last.

Who is going to win it? It could well be one of those explosive occasions with one mistake by one player being all-important.

Scotland's preparations for the match, although better than they have been in the past, will still not have been as thorough as West Germany's.

Bobby Brown has only been able to get his squad together on infrequent Mondays for Hampden get-togethers but after their thrashing of Cyprus in their previous match—following so closely on West Germany's single-goal success in the same country—I'm going to stick my neck out and go for a Scottish win.

Billy Bremner and his boys know they cannot afford to slip against a side with one of the best World Cup records of all; but, nevertheless, a nation which has never recorded a victory over Scotland in an international.

From Germany, when it was announced that the game would be an all-ticket affair, I learned that somewhere in the region of 5,000 fans were likely to come to Glasgow, flaunting their famous red, orange and black colours.

They will still be outnumbered by many more than 20 to 1, so the odds in this respect are very much with Bobby Brown's men.

So many of the top Scots have come scorching back to top form in club matches of late that this is just one further reason for believing that they can do it at Hampden Park.

Certainly, Helmut Schön, the wily West German boss who steered them to within a short-head of World Cup victory in Germany, has been agitated at not being able to see Scotland in action this year.

It is freely admitted from Frankfurt that Helmut has done the next best thing . . . taken a look at the Scottish side in instalments.

First he took a close and clinical look at Billy Bremner playing for Leeds in a Fairs Cup match.

He also watched Celtic in European Cup action against AC Milan. Both trips found him confessing that he had been impressed.

In an earlier feature in these pages, I suggested that Tottenham's Alan Gilzean, formerly of Dundee, had become a key figure in Scotland's qualifying chances.

Bremner, for me, will be the other vital factor. The fiery little Leeds redhead admitted freely on a recent television interview that he enjoys being the team captain.

The responsibility, he said, was good for his game. It gave him additional incentive.

Bremner also admitted quite openly that there is one thing in football that he detests more than anything. Losing!

"Do you like to win at any price?" asked the interviewer.

Like a shot came the reply: "Yes. I'm a terrible loser. I want to win."

Many may hardly condone such forthright admissions, but Scotland has been in world soccer's backwaters for so long that it is refreshing to have a man like Bremner in one's side.

A sort of answer to England's Nobby Stiles—with even more ability than the Manchester United man, in my opinion.

John Greig, a probable starter for the Scotland-West Germany clash on April 16. (Spt)

One time team manager of Brazil, Feola. (UPI)

NO CLOSE SEASON

● Continued from page 25

URUGUAY

THE third Ciudad de Montevideo Cup—not an annual event—brought together Nacional (Uruguay), who were helped by referees to at least two wins and then took the title by at long last beating Peñarol, 3-1; Peñarol, the Uruguayan champions, whose usual slow, cultured soccer didn't suffer by their only having started training 15 days earlier, but who were only half a team when losing to Spartak without their veteran stalwarts, Abbadie, Spencer, Goncalves Joya and Rocha; Velez Sarsfield, the Argentine champions, who ended Peñarol's 30-game unbeaten streak, their first defeat under coach Rafael Milans, by playing their at their own game, but were too erratic in other games; Independiente (Argentina) who, apart from just returning to training showed again the lack of understanding between the players and coach, Luis Carniglia; Moscow Torpedo, with USSR's Player of the Year, Streltsov, who were too quick to hold in the first half, but generally slumped in the second although training three times a day during the whole tournament; Spartak (Czechoslovakia), who missed the title by one point and should have done better.

The Uruguayan teams, Nacional and Peñarol, were in the process of team-building and the former's victory only meant that the overall standard in this tournament, as well as the refereeing, was poor.

One good thing—every player sent off was fined $100 for "spoiling the show", which was deducted from the amount his club received for the game. When Velez Sarsfield officials wanted to take off the entire team in the game against Nacional because they were fed up with the partial referee, they found the players' exit tunnel locked and had to change their mind.

World Diary . . . Roger Macdonald . . . World Diary

● Continued from page 27

missing in the Argentine national side. He has sacrificed the ultimate finesse of technique for greater resolution and character, for greater adaptability and energy.

The success of his earliest experimental choices have made Maschio bolder. He has discarded elegant players like Savoy, Rendo and Silva, preferring instead the less famous but more dedicated Wehbe, Cacco, Pachame and Recio. No one is sure of a place on reputation, not even Albrecht, Onega or Rattin. "Last time Argentina had the best team in the World Cup," said Maschio, "and threw away the title with arrogance and stupidity. I have learned from others' mistakes."

DECISION

Juventus appealed successfully against the decision of the *commisario technico* to fine them one point after serious crowd disturbances during their game with Roma recently. Originally Roma were awarded the match 2-0 (the real score was 2-2), but the Italian FA have substituted a fine of ten million lire, nearly £700.

One can only think that Juventus were either extremely lucky, or extremely influential, not to have their ground closed altogether. The trouble started when Roma, two goals behind, equalised with a doubtful free-kick and an even more doubtful penalty.

Joaquin Peiro's successful kick four minutes from time was the signal for several indignant Juventus fans to scale the wire fence and attack the referee, Antonio Marchi. He was protected by police and by the players—those, that is, who were not involved in a brawl themselves, kicking and biting each other around the Juventus penalty area.

The game was held up for three minutes, and even when it did finish the trouble continued. Fans besieged the dressing-room and Marchi had to be smuggled out of a back door and taken to safety in the Italian equivalent of a Black Maria. The battle between police and spectators lasted for four hours. Five vehicles were badly damaged and three people were injured, including one innocent bystander who was hit by a chunk of wood thrown at the Roma coach. One fan actually got inside and spat in the face of Roma's coach, Helenio Herrera. Another spectator waved a loaded gun at the Roman players, and calmly produced a firearms certificate when he was arrested by the police. However, this was not enough to get him off.

Juventus were still ordered to play their next home match on a neutral ground, and the suspensions on Sandro Salvadore and Roma's Fabio Capello were confirmed, as were the fines on two other Juventus players.

So the only team to be fined a point remains Atalanta, who by a strange coincidence were also playing Roma when their fans invaded the pitch at Bergamo. And Atalanta have other troubles, because three of their players, Sergio Clerici, Georgio de Rossi and Paulo Lazzotti, have been reported to the league disciplinary committee for taking stimulants before matches. They are almost certain to be suspended, along with Torino's Lido Vieri and Modena's Mario Isetti.

The disturbances at Bergamo and Turin were followed by another in Rome itself. Some 15,000 Neapolitan supporters travelled to Rome by train for a game with Roma, which ended in a goalless draw. Fighting broke out with Roma fans as the queues lengthened for the trains home, and 15 people were injured, including a policeman.

The son of Italy's most famous referee, Concetto Lo Bello, is keen to become a First Division official—in spite of the ever-growing risk in Italy. On the day of the Juventus affray, the linesmen at the Internazionale-Palermo match were bombarded with snowballs containing stones and rubbish, and two of the policemen who intervened were injured. Near Genoa, all 22 players in the Sestre-Torente minor league game became involved in a brawl, which had two rounds and included a black eye for the brave but foolhardy referee. In central Italy a linesman made a getaway in his car, pursued by several furious fans in their own transport. He was so frightened that he went much too fast, failed completely to negotiate a bend and was only prevented from sailing into a deep ravine when his bumper caught the roots of a tree.

PRESIDENT

There are even greater risks, perhaps, in being a club president in Brazil. Veiga Brito, the Flamengo president, has had several threats on his life because he sold the club's best player, Luis Carlos, to Vasco da Gama for almost £53,000. Brito remained unperturbed: "We are in the middle of a financial crisis," he said, "and it is because several offers of help did not materialise that I have taken this step. We owe so much money that I shall have to sell more players. And it's no good killing me; if I die, Flamengo will certainly go out of business."

A setback for the reorganised North American soccer league: New York Generals will not be taking part in this summer's competition. General manager Jaag Bergesch said the club would stay in existence as a touring team, but that their 16 players would be released to negotiate contracts with other clubs.

The Russian champions, Dynamo Kiev, have been on a tour of the United States—the first football club ever to do so. A crowd of 11,800 turned up at San Francisco to see their first match, a 3-2 victory over California Clippers. Anatoly Puzach scored a hat-trick for the Russians, while Cirilo Fernandez had an eventful afternoon for the Clippers. He scored both their goals then got sent off for kicking an opponent.

One of Yugoslavia's scorers against Sweden, Musemic, is seen getting up to a header during a training session. (UPI)

ROUND THE WORLD STORIES

YUGOSLAVIA

THE second attempt to introduce professionalism appears to be foundering, for with expenses continually rising, attendances have fallen away alarmingly. Defensive tactics and tough, often ruthless tackling are most frequently blamed, but clubs in Belgrade appear to be more seriously threatened than provincial clubs.

In Zagreb, Split and even Rijeka and Maribor the local authorities have contributed large sums to keep their teams solvent, but in the capital the government and the city council seem unconcerned. Partizan FK, European Cup finalists in 1956, have threatened to move from Belgrade and play in the provinces if they fail to obtain any relief from high taxation and government apathy.

The long standing dispute between the League clubs and the State-run pools appeared to have been settled in January when talks resulted in a 12% agreement that was acceptable to the clubs. A pools subsidy would have meant the difference between survival and extinction to many clubs but within a few days of the agreement the Sports Ministry torpedoed the deal. Football, said a Ministry spokesman, must learn to stand on its own feet. The League clubs responded with an emergency meeting at which it was agreed once more that fixtures would be kept secret until Friday mornings.

Preparing for the second half of his World Cup qualifying campaign, Rajko Mitic faces a daunting task. With four games left, the Yugoslavs must win them all to overhaul Belgium, who have still to play in Belgrade. When the two teams met in Brussels, three players were sent off and if the trip to Mexico hangs in the balance when the return game is staged in Belgrade it could result in a bloodbath.

Meanwhile a home-based team met Sweden before a 20,000 crowd at Split and won 2-1 with goals from Musemic and Bjekovic — Magnusson replied for Sweden — but for the serious matches Mitic plans to recall the *emigre* players like Jusufi and Skoblar.

WEST GERMANY

WITH international centre-forward Gerdi Muller suspended for two months after being sent off in December, Bayern Munich went through a run of seven matches without a win. Through the shortcomings of their chief rivals, they managed to retain top place in the Bundesliga table and although Eintracht Braunschweig are still threatening a serious challenge, Bayern remain the favourites.

On his return to the side Muller scored both the Bayern goals in a 2-1 away win over Hertha in Berlin, where the biggest crowd of the day (38,000) was assembled. Muller's 22 league goals are still quite the best tally, with Uwe Seeler, his nearest rival, with 14 and Josip Skoblar, Hannover's Yugoslav international, having scored 13.

After spending several weeks at the foot of the table, champions FC Nurnberg reduced admission prices and gave several thousand tickets to local schools for free distribution to pupils. This resulted in three home attendances of 45,000, 50,000 and 40,000, but away from home they drew a mere 8,000 to Kaiserslautern.

Nurnberg coach, Max Merkel, reputed to be the highest paid team-chief in West Germany, is said to have offered a 30% reduction in salary to help the club, but is still at odds with several of his players. Yugoslav right-winger Cebinac (a star last season) has apparently been barred from the dressing-rooms and training ground and placed on the transfer list.

Perhaps the tide began to turn for Merkel and Nurnberg with the visit of much improved 1860 Munchen, who occupied third place in the table. Nurnberg beat them 3-0 before a 50,000 crowd to pull away from last place, though they and FA Cup holders 1st FC Koln are still in serious danger.

Koln's collapse seems as inexplicable as that of Nurnberg, though serious injuries have hampered them. Yugoslav international 'keeper Milutin Soskic spent seven months recovering from a broken leg and within a few weeks of being match-fit broke the same leg again. The club has also missed the goals touch of left-wing star Lohr, who was ordered to rest on medical grounds.

RUSSIA

NEWLY appointed national team boss Gavril Katchaline took off for South America with an experimental squad in which young untried players formed the greater part.

Flying in to Bogota, the Russian players were immediately in difficulties after refusing to comply with a recently innovated law that visitors from abroad must leave their fingerprints with customs officials. The Russians were told to comply with the regulations, leave the country within 48 hours or risk being thrown in gaol!

Although the quality of their football leaves a great deal to be desired, the early results have been encouraging for Katchaline. Drawing with the Millonarios and Sporting Cristal (Peru), they also beat Colombia 3-1.

Igor Netto, former captain of Moscow Spartak and the Russian national team, retired five years ago and spent much of this time coaching in Cyprus. Returning to Moscow last autumn, he has now been appointed manager of Moscow Spartak's ice-hockey team. In his younger days Netto played ice-hockey, too, and said recently: "There is not much difference between football and ice-hockey."

The myth about Russia's well-disciplined players appears to have died a natural death for, according to figures recently released by the FA, the 1968 season was the toughest and most indisciplined on record. In First Division matches alone, no fewer than 56 players were sent off—a 60 per cent increase on 1967 and an average of one player sent off for each 14 games.

Moscow club Lokomotive appear to be the leaders of the new mood with seven players sent off and six more cautioned in their 38 league matches. Dynamo Kirovobad, promoted in 1967, had eight men sent off and suspended for a combined total of 38 weeks.

All told, 70 Division I players were suspended for periods varying from one to five weeks and one was suspended for the rest of the season.

BULGARIA

THE Sports Council's long-awaited reforms were presented and implemented early in the new year and brought Sofia fans a great many shocks. The timing of the reorganisation could hardly have been more mismanaged, for the middle of the season is no time to wind up clubs and promote teams from Division II. This, however, is what has been done.

Lokomotive Sofia (sixth in the league table) have been amalgamated with Slavia to become GKS Slavia, the team of the railway workers, while neighbours Spartak, who were lying in seventh place, have become part of the new Levski-Spartak organisation.

CSKA benefited from the shake-up, for as an army team they have never had the opportunity to develop their own young players. Amalgamating with Division II Septemvriska Slava, CSKA have overnight developed a solid civilian base and acquired a great many young players.

Another Division II club affected was Sportist, who have been forced into a shot-gun wedding with Levski and Spartak, though the FA have agreed to allow Sportist to remain in the Second Division as a reserve side. The only proviso is that if promoted they will not be allowed to play in the top class.

Not content with a reorganisation which would have brought chaos almost anywhere else in the world, the Bulgarian FA went still further. A few days after the initial announcement, Division II Akademik (the team of Sofia University) was "promoted" to the First Division. This brings the complement of Division I up to 15 clubs and while Akademik are granted seventh place in the table and Spartak's points, only one team will be relegated in June.

The second half of the season began with the FA Cup matches based on four groups and played on a mini-league basis. The top team in each group will pass into the semi-finals. Meanwhile, the national team, preparing for the forthcoming World Cup battles with Poland and Holland, met touring Moscow Torpedo in Sofia and won 3-0, with goals by Asparoukhov, Kotkov and Jekov.

SPAIN

THE last chance to earn a place in the World Cup last 16 disappeared during the 2-1 defeat against Belgium at Liege. A capacity crowd of 36,000 saw some disgraceful scenes of violence and at one time the match was held up for ten minutes while police swarmed all over the pitch. CF Barcelona left-back Eladio was sent off, while he and Spanish coach Dr. Eduardo Toba complained of being manhandled by the gendarmerie.

Until late in the game the Spaniards seemed content to play to the modern counter-attack system which gave them only a minimal chance of the victory they needed, but for the last ten minutes Real Madrid left-half Zoco was released from his role at the back and for the first time the Spaniards threatened to control the game.

After the match Belgian officials wanted to arrest several of the Spanish party and charge them with disturbing the peace, but finally FA and Foreign Ministry officials managed to prevail. Later the Spanish FA sent an official protest to FIFA.

A goalless draw away to Sabadell gave Real Madrid a new record of 20 opening games without defeat, beating the 19-match record they had themselves set in the 1966–67 campaign. Although having difficulty in scoring goals and being forced to accept a string of draws, Real extended their unbeaten run to 22 matches, and with only eight games left led closest challengers Las Palmas by seven points.

MEXICO

THE new stadium in Leon, specially constructed for the 1970 World Cup, was officially inaugurated by the visit of Colombia. Mexico won 1-0 with a first-half goal by Fragoso and Colombia's Hernandez was sent off after the break.

The Mexican FA's plans to prepare their World Cup squad by entering them as a new team in the First Division championship have been jolted recently by many critics. Ignacio Trelles, manager of First Division club Toluca and coach of the national team, is thought to have threatened to resign if the programme is scrapped.

Alejandro Scopelli, who held the FA job before Trelles, is rumoured to have signed for the FA as a technical assessor and stands in the wings waiting to take over if the critics of the FA scheme should win.

The new season begins early on April 6 and is scheduled to be wound up with the FA Cup Final on January 1 or 4, 1970.

On Reflection

NOBODY could accuse the Football League of not making an effort over the last few years both to improve its public relations and its private administration. For much of this credit is due to Alan Hardaker, the secretary, who has managed to guide a malleable Management Committee in some of the right directions. It has often been true that their good intentions have been frustrated by the reluctance of the voting members to face the need for change. But on the latest issue of crowd safety at League grounds I consider the League are not only complacent but fail to recognise the true nature of the danger.

The trouble came to a head when crush barriers and a fence collapsed at the FA Cup tie between Watford and Manchester United at Vicarage Road, several people being taken to hospital. One of the national morning papers took up the issue on its front pages, claiming that there was no proper care taken even to find out whose was the statutory power to control the safety at football grounds. It seemed that the police, the clubs and the League all agreed there was the possibility of danger but would not say positively where the responsibility lay, other than taking normal precautions—which, of course, always adequate until an abnormal situation, as at Watford, suddenly catches everyone unawares.

A statement put out by the League criticised the start of a newspaper scare and the implication that safety was a hit-or-miss affair. It was admitted that clubs were responsible in common law for events on their premises, but stated that the safety record was good as there had not been a disaster since Bolton in 1946. Furthering their point, the League stated that the following precautions have been put into effect since the Bolton disaster:

1. Lower crowd maximum limits imposed after discussion with police.
2. Electronic computers installed at major grounds to show minute by minute the number of spectators in each part of the ground.
3. Constant check on conditions of crush barriers.
4. Check on condition of terracing.
5. All new buildings and exits and entrances inspected by local authorities.

Now this is fine as far as it goes, but in my view it does not go far enough, for the following reasons. In the first place the limits are still not low enough at many of the big grounds, where too great a density is permitted in the standing areas. Secondly the barriers may be in good order but there are not enough of them.

What is required is fewer people and more crush barriers, both in vertical and horizontal lines, and where possible wider and less steep terraces. Of course, the ultimate answer, as at most big foreign grounds, is to have sufficiently wide terraces so that people may sit on them, even without seats but with cushions. An important by-product of getting more people sitting down is a decrease in disorder. Spectators are far more inclined to fight if thrust into such close proximity with their neighbours that it is impossible to clap other than by raising one's hands above one's head.

I would certainly not accuse clubs of negligence in crowd safety, but it is undeniable that many spectators have to watch in acute discomfort. Treat people like animals and they will probably behave like animals when the stress becomes too great. And not only is there the discomfort, but many of the last arrivals at big grounds, even where there is a police limit, cannot see the match from an insecure foothold among a milling mass at the rear. A few more chairmen and members of the management committee should try standing on the terraces to watch their club, as I have often done. It's no joke.

Your admission fee should be some sort of guarantee of safety AND a reasonable view in comfort.

by DAVID MILLER

SOCCERTISTICS

WORLD SOCCER's special results, line-ups and tables section, Soccertistics, is designed to collate statistics and information from all regions of the football world. League results, club and international line-ups plus up-to-date coverage of each of the World Cup qualification groups.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE RESULTS

FEBRUARY 2

Holland: NEC 1, Ajax 2; Volendam 1, Sparta 0; Holland Sport 0, NAC 0; Telstar 1, Go Ahead 0; Twente 4, GVAV 0; Feijenoord 1, ADO 1; MVV 1, AZ '67 0; DWS Amsterdam 1, PSV 1.

Belgium: Lierse 0, FC Liege 1; Anderlecht 2, Racing White 0; Beveren 2, Daring 1; Union St. Gilloise 0, Malinois 0; Standard Liege 1, SC Charleroi 0; Beringen 1, FC Bruges 1; Waregem 2, St. Trond 2; La Gantoise 2, Beerschot 0.

France: Ajaccio 1, Nantes 0; Nimes 1, Bordeaux 3; Lyon 0, Red Star 0; Valenciennes 4, Monaco 2; Marseilles 4, Sochaux 0; Rouen 1, St. Etienne 5; Nice 2, Sedan 1; Strasbourg 1, Metz 1; Rennes 3, Bastia 1.

Spain: Atletico Madrid 1, Real Zaragossa 0; Sabadell 0, Real Madrid 0; Valencia 0, Malaga 0; Cordoba 0, Coruna 0; Real Sociedad 1, Elche 0; Atletico Bilbao 1, Espanol 0; Las Palmas 1, Pontevedra 0; Barcelona 4, Granada 0.

Portugal: Sanjoanense 2, Belenenses 3; Sporting 1, CUF 1; Atletico 0, Academica 4; Varzim 1, Porto 1; Leixoes 0, Benfica 0; Guimaraes 3, Uniao de Tomar 0; Setubal 3, Braga 0.

Luxembourg: Aris Bonneweg 2, Union Luxembourg 1.

Italy: Fiorentina 0, Roma 0; Inter-Milan 1, Vicenza 0; Juventus 1, Atalanta 0; Palermo 0, Cagliari 0; Pisa 1, Torina 1; Sampdoria 1, AC Milan 1; Varese 1, Bologna 1; Verona 1, Naples 0.

Greece: Panathinaikos 4, Trikala 1; Aris 3, Olympiakos 0; AEK 3, Pierikos 0; Panionios 2, Panserelkos 1; Weroia 2, Chalkis 2; Iraklis 1, Ethnikos 2; OF Iraklion 1, PAOK 1; Apollon 1, Aigaleo 1; AE Lemasos 1, Wysas 3.

W. Germany: Borussia Dortmund 2, Munchen 1860 0; Bayern Munchen 0, Schalke 04 0; VfB Stuttgart 4, Hertha BSC 2; Nurnberg 1, Hannover 96 2; Eintracht Brunswick 1, Eintracht Frankfurt 0; Kickers Offenbach 1, Borussia Monchengladbach 0; Koln 2, Kaiserslautern 1; Werder Bremen 1, Hamburger SV 1; MSV Duisberg 1, Alemannia Aachen 1.

FEBRUARY 5

Italy: Verona 2, Vicenza 1.

FEBRUARY 9

Spain: Granada 0, Pontevedra 0; Zaragossa 0, Barcelona 0; Espanol 1, Sabadell 1; Malaga 1, Real Sociedad 0; Coruna 1, Atletico Bilbao 0; Real Madrid 0, Valencia 0; Las Palmas 4, Cordoba 0; Elche 2, Atletico Madrid 2.

Italy: Atalanta 0, Fiorentina 1; Bologna 3, Vicenza 0; Cagliari 0, Varese 0; AC Milan 3, Verona 0; Naples 3, Inter-Milan 1; Palermo 1, Juventus 1; Roma 2, Pisa 0; Torino 2, Sampdoria 0.

Greece: Panathinaikos 1, OF Iraklion 0; Olympiakos 6, AE Lemasos 0; AEK 0, Wysas 0; Ethnikos 3, Weroia 0; Aigaleo 1, Panionios 0; Chalkis 0, Aris 0; Pierikos 2, Trikala 0; PAOK 2, Apollon 0; Panseraikos 1, Iraklis 0.

W. Germany: Hertha BSC 1, Bayern Munchen 2; Kaiserslautern 1, Nurnberg 1; Schalke 04 2, Werder Bremen 1; Hamburger SV 2, Borussia Dortmund 0; Munchen 1860 2, Koln 1; Eintracht Frankfurt 3, VfB Stuttgart 0; Hannover 96 2, Kickers Offenbach 2; MSV Duisberg 1, Eintracht Brunswick 1; Alemannia Aachen 2, Borussia Monchengladbach 1.

FEBRUARY 16

France: Ajaccio 0, St. Etienne 2; Bastia 4, Lyon 0; Monaco 2, Strasbourg 1; Nantes 3, Valenciennes 2.

Spain: Atletico Madrid 4, Malaga 1; Real Sociedad 0, Real Madrid 2; Pontevedra 0, Zaragossa 0; Barcelona 1, Elche 1; Granada 2, Las Palmas 2; Sabadell 0, Coruna 0; Atletico Bilbao 3, Cordoba 0; Valencia 2, Espanol 2.

Portugal: CUF 1, Guimaraes 1; Uniao de Tomar 0, Setubal 0; Academica 1, Sporting 0; Belenenses 2, Leixoes 1; Porto 4, Atletico 1; Braga 1, Sanjoanense 0; Benfica 3, Varzim 1.

Italy: Fiorentina 1, Cagliari 1; Inter-Milan 0, Palermo 0; Juventus 2, Roma 2; Vicenza 1, Torino 1; Sampdoria 0, Naples 2; Varese 1, Atalanta 2; Verona 5, Bologna 1; Pisa 0, AC Milan 1.

Greece: Iraklis 0, Panathinaikos 2; AEK 2, Ethnikos 0; OF Iraklion 0, Olympiakos 0; Apollon 1, Wysas 0; Aris 1, Aigaleo 0; Weroia 1, PAOK 1; Panionios 3, Pierikos 0; Trikala 1, Chalkis 0; AE Lemasos 0, Panseraikos 2.

E. Germany: Lokomotiv Leipzig 2, Vorwaerts 0; Dynamo 2, Chemie Leipzig 1; Chemnitz 3, Magdeburg 0; Rot-Weiss Erfurt 0, Wismut Aue 2; Stahl Riesa 1, Chemie Halle 1; Sachsenring Zwickau 0, Carl Zeiss Jena 0; Hansa Rostock 1, Union Berlin 1.

FEBRUARY 23

France: Bastia 2, Red Star 1; Lyon 0, Metz 1; Valenciennes 1, St. Etienne 1; Marseilles 3, Ajaccio 0; Rouen 0, Sedan 1; Strasbourg 1, Bordeaux 1; Rennes 3, Sochaux 0.

Portugal: Sporting 2, Porto 1; Atletico 0, Benfica 2; Guimaraes 2, Academica 1; Sanjoanense 1, Setubal 4; CUF 2, Uniao de Tomar 0; Leixoes 2, Braga 0; Varzim 1, Belenenses 1.

Italy: Atalanta 1, Vicenza 3; Bologna 1, Juventus 1; Cagliari 1, Inter-Milan 0; AC Milan 0, Fiorentina 0; Palermo 1, Sampdoria 0; Roma 0, Naples 0; Torino 4, Verona 0; Varese 3, Pisa 1.

W. Germany: Nurnberg 3, Munchen 1860 0; Bayern Munchen 2, Eintracht Frankfurt 0; VfB Stuttgart 3, MSV Duisberg 2.

E. Germany: Magdeburg 3, Chemie Leipzig 1; Wismut Aue 1, Karl-Marx-Stadt 2; Chemie Halle 2, Rot-Weiss Erfurt 0; Carl Zeiss Jena 3, Stahl Riesa 0; Union Berlin 2, Sachsenring Zwickau 3; Lokomotiv Leipzig 1, Dynamo Berlin 2.

INTERNATIONAL RESULTS

FEBRUARY 1

Malawi (0) 2 (Haddon o.g., Cook) 3,000
Rhodesia (1) 2 (Homela, Haddon)

Malawi: Kapalamula; Chirwa, Nazim; Nyirenda, Nakhumwa, Morin; Poison, Osman (Y.), Chibambo, Griffin, Cook.

Rhodesia: Jordan; Mutuma, Supiya; Machaya, Haddon, Kennedy; Mapara (Titus), Davey, Chalmers, Nxumalo, Homela (Sibanda).

FEBRUARY 2

Malawi (0) 0 8,000
Rhodesia (1) 1 (Haddon)

Malawi: Kapalamula (Leotta); Kagwa, Moyo; Kutengule, Linzie, Griffin; Morin, Poison, Osman (Y.) (Kanwendo), Chirambo, Cook.

Rhodesia: Jordan; Mutuma, Supiya; Machaya, Haddon, Kennedy; Mapara, Davey, Chalmers, Nxumalo, Homela.

FEBRUARY 8

Rhodesia (3) 4 (Homela 2, Chalmers, Nxumalo) 3,000
Malawi (0) 0

Rhodesia: Jordan; Mutuma, Supiya; Nxumalo, Haddon, Marshall; Phillemon, Machaya, Chalmers, Brown, Homela.

Malawi: Leotta; Kagwa, Kutengule; Linzie (Sparrow), Moyo, Morin; Kanwendo, Osman (Y.), Poison, Griffin, Cook (Bwanali).

FEBRUARY 9

Rhodesia (0) 1 (Chalmers) 6,000
Malawi (1) 1 (Osman Y., pen.)

Rhodesia: Jordan; Mutuma, Supiya; Nxumalo, Haddon, Marshall; Phillemon (Mapara), Machaya, Chalmers, Brown (Madondo), Homela.

Malawi: Kumbatira; Kagwa, Kutengule; Bwandali, Moyo, Maliwa; Osman (A.) (Kalembo), Griffin (B.), Osman (Y.) (Chirwa), Cook, Poyah.

FEBRUARY 12

France (1) 2 (Revelli, Loubet)
Hungary (1) 2 (Albert, Rakosi)

France: Baratelli; Djorkaeff, Baeza; Novi, Rostagni, Bosquier; Loubet, Revelli, Bereta, Michel, Braz.

Hungary: Pater; Novak, Ihasz; Rakosi, Solymosi, Szucs; Fazekas, Juhasz, Albert, Farkas, Nagy.

FEBRUARY 21

Colombia (1) 1 (Santa)
Russia (1) 3 (Gerschovitsch, Melnitsky 2)

Colombia: Quitana; Segovia, Hernandez; Garcia, Lopez, Gaviria; Canon, Moreno, Gallego, Tovar, Santa.

Russia: Psenitschnikov; Ponomarev, Dandusaschvili; Eskov, Shesternev, Kaplitschni; Melnitsky, Gerschovitsch, Lissenko, Kumakov, Muntjan.

FEBRUARY 23

Belgium (1) 2 (Devrindt 2) 36,000
Spain (0) 1 (Asensi)

Belgium: Trappeniers; Heylens, Thiessen; Van Moer, Jeck, Dewalque; Semmeling, Devrindt, Van Himst, Polleunis, Puls.

Spain: Iribar; Martin (Torres), Eladio; Glaria, Gallego, Zoco; Claramunt (Asensi), Amancio, Gruso, Velasquez, Baba.

FEBRUARY 26

Yugoslavia (2) 2 (Bjekovic, Musemic) 20,000
Sweden (1) 1 (Magnusson)

Yugoslavia: Multibaric; Cvek, Gracanin (Tesan); Belin, Ramljak, Holcer; Trivic (Hlevnjak), Katic, Musemic, Bjekovic, Pavlica (Mujkic).

Sweden: Hellstrom; Selander, Grip; Eriksson, Kristiansson, Nordquist; Magnusson, Grahn, Nordahl, Svensson, Eijderstedt (Andersson).

Copa "Cuidad de Mar del Plata" (Argentina)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Boca Juniors	6	5	0	1	12	6	10
Palmeiras	6	3	1	2	10	4	7
Slovan Bratislava	6	2	3	1	8	7	7
Estudiantes	6	2	1	3	13	8	5
MTK	6	2	1	3	8	9	5
Rapid Vienna	6	2	1	3	8	16	5
Mar del Plata Select	6	1	1	4	6	15	3

Santiago International Tournament (Chile)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo-Colo	5	3	2	0	12	8	8
Moscow Dynamo	5	2	3	0	10	7	7
Red Star Belgrade	5	1	2	2	10	11	4
Corinthians	5	1	2	2	7	8	4
San Lorenzo	5	1	2	2	6	8	4
Universidad de Chile	5	1	1	3	5	8	3

Third "Copa de Montevideo" (Uruguay)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nacional	5	4	0	1	11	5	8
Spartak	5	3	1	1	9	8	7
Velez Sarsfield	4	2	0	2	7	6	4
Penarol	5	2	0	3	6	7	4
Moscow Torpedo	5	1	1	3	6	10	3
Independiente	4	1	0	3	7	10	2

Edited by Michael Chandler

WORLD CUP LATEST

GROUP ONE

Switzerland 1, Greece 0
Portugal 3, Rumania 0
Rumania 2, Switzerland 0
Greece 4, Portugal 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	2	1	1	4	3	2
Portugal ...	2	1	1	5	4	2
Rumania ...	2	1	1	2	3	2
Switzerland ..	2	1	1	1	2	2

GROUP TWO

Denmark 0, Czechoslovakia 3
Czechoslovakia 1, Denmark 0

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Czechs	2	2	0	4	0	4
Eire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hungary ...	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denmark ...	2	0	2	0	4	0

GROUP THREE

Wales 0, Italy 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	1	1	0	1	0	2
E. Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0
Wales	1	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP FOUR

Northern Ireland 4, Turkey 1
Turkey 0, Northern Ireland 3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
N. Ireland...	2	2	0	7	1	4
USSR	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	2	0	2	1	7	0

GROUP FIVE

Sweden 5, Norway 0
France 0, Norway 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	1	1	0	5	0	2
Norway ...	2	1	1	1	5	2
France	1	0	1	0	1	0

GROUP SIX

Finland 1, Belgium 2
Yugoslavia 9, Finland 1
Belgium 6, Finland 1
Belgium 3, Yugoslavia 0
Yugoslavia 0, Spain 0
Spain 1, Belgium 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Belgium	4	3	0	12	3	7
Yugoslavia ...	3	1	1	9	4	3
Spain	2	0	0	1	1	2
Finland	3	0	3	3	17	0

GROUP SEVEN

Austria 7, Cyprus 1
Austria 0, West Germany 2
Cyprus 0, West Germany 1
Scotland 2, Austria 1
Cyprus 0, Scotland 5

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
W. Germany	2	2	0	3	0	4
Scotland ...	2	2	0	7	1	4
Austria	3	1	2	8	5	2
Cyprus	3	0	3	1	13	0

GROUP EIGHT

Holland 2, Luxembourg 0
Bulgaria 2, Holland 0

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bulgaria ...	1	1	0	2	0	2
Holland ...	2	1	1	2	2	2
Poland	0	0	0	0	0	0
Luxembourg	1	0	1	0	2	0

No matches yet played in the South American Groups (Ten, Eleven, Twelve).

GROUP THIRTEEN (A)

Costa Rica 3, Jamaica 0
Jamaica 1, Costa Rica 3
Honduras 3, Jamaica 1
Jamaica 0, Honduras 2
Honduras 1, Costa Rica 0
Costa Rica 1, Honduras 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Honduras ...	**4**	**3**	**0**	**7**	**2**	**7**
Costa Rica ..	4	2	1	7	3	5
Jamaica	4	0	2	2	11	0

GROUP THIRTEEN (B)

Guatemala 4, Trinidad 0
Trinidad 0, Guatemala 0
Trinidad 0, Haiti 4
Haiti 2, Trinidad 4
Haiti 2, Guatemala 0
Guatemala 1, Haiti 0 (Walk-over)

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Guatemala ..	4	2	1	5	2	5
Haiti	4	2	1	8	5	4
Trinidad ...	4	1	2	4	10	3

GROUP THIRTEEN (C)

Surinam 6, Neth. Antilles 0
El Salvador 6, Surinam 0
Neth. Antilles 2, Surinam 0
El Salvador 1, Neth. Antilles 0
Neth. Antilles 1, El Salvador 2
Surinam 4, El Salvador 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
El Salvador	**4**	**3**	**1**	**10**	**5**	**6**
Surinam ...	4	2	2	10	9	4
N. Antilles...	4	1	3	3	9	2

GROUP THIRTEEN (D)

Canada 4, Bermuda 0
Canada 4, USA 2
Bermuda 0, Canada 0
USA 1, Canada 0
USA 6, Bermuda 2
Bermuda 0, USA 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
**USA ..... **	**4**	**3**	**1**	**11**	**6**	**6**
Canada	4	2	1	8	3	5
Bermuda ...	4	0	0	2	12	1

No matches yet played in Group Fifteen.

GROUP SIXTEEN (A)

Algeria 1, Tunisia 2
Tunisia 0, Algeria 0

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
**Tunisia ..... **	**2**	**1**	**0**	**2**	**1**	**2**
Algeria	2	0	1	1	2	0

GROUP SIXTEEN (B)

Morocco 1, Senegal 0
Senegal 2, Morocco 1
Play-off:
Morocco 2, Senegal 0

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Morocco ...	2	1	0	2	2	2
Senegal	2	1	0	2	2	2

GROUP SIXTEEN (C)

Libya 0, Ethiopia 2
Ethiopia 5, Libya 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Ethiopia ...	2	2	0	7	1	4
Libya	2	0	2	1	7	0

GROUP SIXTEEN (D)

Zambia 4, Sudan 2
Sudan 4, Zambia 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Zambia	2	1	1	6	6	2
Sudan	2	1	1	6	6	2

(A play-off match is necessary.)

GROUP SIXTEEN (E)

Nigeria 1, Cameroons 1
Cameroons 2, Nigeria 3

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
**Nigeria ..... **	**2**	**1**	**0**	**4**	**3**	**3**
Cameroons...	2	0	1	3	4	1

(No matches yet played in section F.)

SOUTH AMERICAN CHAMPIONS (Libertadores) CUP

Group Three—First Round

Cerro Porteno (Paraguay) 4 Olimpia (Paraguay) 1. Bolivar (Bolivia) 1 Litoral (Bolivia) 0. Bolivar 2 Cerro Porteno 1. Litoral 0 Olimpia 3.

INTERNATIONAL CLUB TOURNAMENTS

Ciudad de Mar del Plata Cup (staged at Mar del Plata Argentina)

JANUARY 7

Mar del Plata League XI (1) 1 (Erezuma)
Slovan Bratislava (1) 1 (Sokol)

League XI: Yori; Tamagnone, Moreno; Rodriguez, Raimondi, Cardozo (Avio); Palacios, Villegas, Arce, Erezuma, Urba.

Slovan: Vencel; Mutkovic, Zlocha; Horvath, Hrivnak, Cvetler; Josef Capkovic, Sokol, Jokl, Reznak, Jan Capkovic.

Boca Juniors (0) 2 (Pianetti, Rattin)
Rapid Vienna (0) 1 (Bjerregaard)

Boca: Roma; Sune, Magdalena; Rogel, Ovide, Cabrera (Madurga); Rattin, Nicolau (A. Gonzalez), Novello, Angel Rojas, Oyola (Pianetti).

Rapid: Fuchsbichler; Gebhardt, Glechner; Ullmann, Fak, Eigenstiller; Bjerregaard, Fritsch, Traxler, Grausam, Sondergaard.

● Continued overleaf

Acinovic (Red Star) and Cruz (Colo-Colo), with white shirt, in heated argument, each in his own language, without understanding each other. (EW)

SOCCERTISTICS

★ Continued from previous page

JANUARY 9

Mar del Plata XI (0) 2 (Avio pen., Erezuma)
Rapid Vienna (1) 3 (Bjerregaard 2, Kaltenbrunner)

League XI: Yori (Perez); Tamagnone, Moreno; Rodriguez, Raimondi, Avio; Palacios, Villegas (Villa), Arce, Erezuma, Buyatti (Diano).

Rapid: Fuchsbichler (Reisinger); Gebhardt, Glechner; Ullmann, Fak, Skocik; Bjerregaard, Fritsch, Kaltenbrunner, Flogel (Grausam), Sondergaard (Lindman).

MTK (Hungary) (1) 2 (Torok 2)
Palmeiras (0) 1 (Cesar)

MTK: Hadju; Szanto, Csetenyi; Keszei, Oborzil, Szucs; Rottenbiller, Szuromi, Torok, Kolmar, Kiss (Strasser).

Palmeiras: Chicao; Enrico, Baldocchi; Nelson, Ze Luis, Dudu (Julio Amaral); Adhemir da Guia, Copeu (Cassiano), Cesar, Artime, Serginho.

JANUARY 12

Slovan Bratislava (1) 2 (Cvetler, Hlavenka)
Estudiantes (1) 1 (Conigliaro)

Slovan: Vencel; Zlocha (L.), Horvath; Hlavenka, Hatar, Cvetler; Josef Capkovic, Jokl (Moder), Jan Capkovic, Reznak, Zlocha (J.).

Estudiantes: Poletti; Manera, Malbernat; Aguirre Suarez (Spadero), Madero, Pachame; Echecopar, Flores (E.), Conigliaro, Bilardo (Togneri), Veron.

JANUARY 14

Estudiantes (0) 2 (Madero, Flores E.)
MTK (0) 2 (Kalmar, Kiss)

Estudiantes: Poletti; Manera, Malbernat; Aguirre Suarez, Madero, Pachame; Echecopar, Flores (E.), Conigliaro, Bilardo, Veron.

MTK: Hajdu; Szanto, Csetenyi; Faludi, Keszei, Rotenbiller (Oborzil); Kiss, Torok, Szuromi, Szucs, Kalmar (Takacs).

Rapid Vienna (1) 2 (Bjerregaard, Flogel)
Slovan Bratislava (1) 2 (Hlavenka, Jan Capkovic)

Rapid: Fuchsbichler; Gebhardt, Glechner; Ullmann, Traxler, Fak; Eigenstiller (Lindman), Fritsch, Bjerregaard (Grausam), Kaltenbrunner, Flogel.

Slovan: Vencel; Zlocha (L.), Hrivnak; Horvath, Hatar (Sokol), Cvetler (Bizon); Josef Capkovic, Hlavenka, Moder, Jan Capkovic, J. Zlocha (Fillo).

JANUARY 17

Boca Juniors (0) 1 (Pianetti)
MTK (0) 0

Boca: Roma; Sune, Magdalena; Rogel, Ovide, Cabrera (Nicolau); Rattin, Madurga (Romero), Angel Rojas, Novello, Pianetti.

MTK: Hajdu; Szanto, Csentenyi; Faludi, Keszei, Rotenbiller (Jekesi); Kiss (Oborzil), Szucs, Torok, Kalmar, Szuromi.

Palmeiras (2) 5 (Artime 5)
Rapid Vienna (0) 0

Palmeiras: Chicao; Enrico, Perera (Baldocchi); Nelson, Das Neves, Adhemir de Guia; Amaral (Dudu), Cassiano (Copeu), Cesar, Artime, Serginho.

Rapid: Reisinger; Gebhardt, Glechner; Ullmann, Fak, Eigenstiller; Traxler, Fritsch, Bjerregaard, Kaltenbrunner, Flogel.

JANUARY 19

Palmeiras (0) 0
Slovan Bratislava (0) 0

Palmeiras: Chicao; Enrico, Baldocchi; Nelson, Zeca, Adhemir da Guia; Amaral (Dudu), Cassiano (Copeu), Cesar, Artime, Serginho.

Slovan: Vencel; Zlocha (L.) (Mutkovic), Hrivnak; Horvath, Hatar, Cvetler; Zlocha (J.), Josef Capkovic, Hlavenka (Bizon), Moder, Jan Capkovic.

JANUARY 21

Estudiantes (2) 4 (Spadero 2 (both pens), Fucceneco, Veron)
Rapid Vienna (0) 0

Estudiantes: Flores (G.); Fucceneco, Malbernat; Alvarez, Spadero (Aguirre Suarez), Madero; Echecopar (Togneri), Ribaudo, Conigliaro (Aguilar), Pachame, Veron.

Rapid: Reisinger (Fuchsbichler); Gebhardt, Glechner; Skocik, Fak, Eigenstiller; Lindmann, Fritsch, Bjerregaard, Kaltenbrunner, Sondergaard.

MTK (1) 3 (Kalmar 3)
Mar del Plata XI (1) 1 (Villegas)

MTK: Hajdu (Lanckok); Szanto, Csetenyi; Faludi, Keszei, Szucs; Takacs (Rotenbiller), Torok (Oborzil), Kalmar, Szuromi (Jekesi), Kiss.

League XI: Perez; Rodriguez (Spinelli), Tamagnone; Calandra, Raimondi, Palacios; Avio, Villegas (Villar), Arce, Erezuma, Buyatti (Urba).

JANUARY 23

Rapid Vienna (1) 2 (Bjerregaard, Kaltenbrunner)
MTK (1) 1 (Szuromi)

Rapid: Fuchsbichler; Gebhardt, Glechner; Skocik, Fak, Ullmann (Eigenstiller); Flogel (Lindman), Fritsch, Bjerregaard, Kaltenbrunner, Grausam (Sondergaard).

MTK: Hajdu; Szanto, Csetenyi; Faludi, Keszei, Rotenbiller; Torok, Szucs, Kalmar, Szuromi, Kiss.

Palmeiras (0) 2 (Zeca, Artime)
Boca Juniors (0) 0

Palmeiras: Chicao; Enrico, Baldocchi; Nelson, Zeca, Adhemir da Guia; Dudu, Copeu, Cesar, Artime, Serginho.

Boca: Roma; Sune, Marzolini; Cabrera, Melendez, Rogel; Novello, Rattin, Pianetti, Nicolau, Rojas.

JANUARY 26

Mar del Plata XI (1) 2 (Buyatti, Villegas)
Palmeiras (1) 1 (Adhemir da Guia)

League XI: Perez; Rodriguez, Tamagnone; Cardoso, Raimondi, Palacios; Avio, Villegas, Arce, Erezuma, Buyatti.

Palmeiras: Chicao; Enrico, Baldocchi; Nelson, Zeca, Adhemir da Guia; Dudu, Copeu, Cesar, Artime, Serginho.

Boca Juniors (2) 3 (Rogel, Pianetti, Madurga)
Slovan Bratislava (1) 1 (Hlavenka)

Boca: Roma; Sune, Ovide; Rattin, Melendez, Rogel; Novello, Madurga, Pianetti (Cabrera), Nicolau, Romero.

Slovan: Vencel; Zlocha (L.), Hrivnak; Horvath, Hatar (Bizon), Cvetler; Josef Capkovic, Zlocha (J.), Hlavenka, Moder, Jan Capkovic.

JANUARY 28

Slovan Bratislava (1) 2 (Zlocha J., Cvetler)
MTK (0) 0

Slovan: Vencel; Mutkovic (Fillo), Zlocha (J.); Hrivnak, Horvath, Cvetler; Josef Capkovic, Hatar, Hlavenka, Moder, Jan Capkovic.

MTK: Hajdu; Szanto, Csentenyi; Faludi, Oborzil, Keszei; Takacs, Torok, Kalmar, Szuromi, Strasser.

Palmeiras (0) 1 (Artime)
Estudiantes (0) 0

Palmeiras: Chicao; Enrico, Baldocchi; Nelson, Ze Luis, Adhemir da Guia; Dudu, Copeu, Cesar, Artime, Serginho.

Estudiantes: Poletti; Manera, Malbernat; Alvarez, Aguirre Suarez, Madero; Togneri, Pachame, Conigliaro, Flores (E.), Veron.

Other results (Jan. 12): Boca Juniors 3 Mar del Plata XI 0. (Jan. 19): Estudiantes 4 Mar del Plata XI 0. (Jan. 31): Boca Juniors 3 Estudiantes 2.

Rattin, (A)

CIUDAD DE BUENOS AIRES CUP (staged in Buenos Aires)

JANUARY 24

Velez Sarsfield (0) 1 (Willington)
Hungarian Olympic XI (0) 1 (Brannikovits)

Velez: Marin; Gallo, Atela; Zotola, Gallo, Ovejero; Whebe (Bianchi), Moreira, Willington, Luna, Nogara (Rios).

Hungary: Szenimihaly; Kapossta, Drestyak; Szalay, Meszoly, Bankuti; Szoke, Brannikovits, Szurgent, Menczel (Sarkosi), Sambo.

(Velez won on penalties, 5-4). Scorers: Velez — Willington, Zotola, Ovejero, Luna, Whebe; Hungary—Szoke, Sambo, Drestyak, Brannikovits.

River Plate (1) 1 (Gutierrez)
Spartak Trnava (0) 1 (Kuna)

River: Carballo; Ferreiro, Dominichi; Solari, Paira, Guzman; Montivero, Onega (D.), Gutierrez, Recio, Mas.

Spartak: Geryk; Dobias, Varadin; Hrusecky, Majernik, Jarabak; Martinkovic, Svec, Adamec, Kuna, Kabat.

(River won on penalties, 3-0). Scorers: River—Mas, Montivero, Dominichi.

JANUARY 26
(Third Place play-off)

Hungarian Olympic XI (1) 4 (Brannikovits 2, Sambo, Majernik o.g.)
Spartak Trnava (1) 1 (Hrusecky)

Hungary: Szenimihaly; Klegovich, Drestyak; Szalay (Konrad), Meszoly, Bankuti; Szoke, Brannikovits, Sarkosi, Menczel, Sambo.

Spartak: Geryk; Dobias, Varadin (Bozik); Hrusecky, Majernik, Jarabek; Martinkovic, Svec (Farkas), Adamec (Fandell), Kuna, Kabat. (Bozik was sent off after 70 minutes.)

Final—River Plate 3 Velez Sarsfield 1 (teams unavailable).

SANTIAGO INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT (in Santiago)

JANUARY 15

San Lorenzo (Argentina) (0) 1 (Albrecht) 60,000
Corinthians (Brazil) (0) 1 (Bene)

San Lorenzo: Buttice; Villar, Rosl; Rendo (Garcia), Calics, Albrecht; Telch, Gonzalez (P.) (Doval), Fischer, Cocco, Veglio.

Corinthians: Lula; Lidu, Edson; Luis Carlos, Ditao, Minuca; Paulo Borges (Fiau), Rivelinho, Flavio, Dudu, Eduardo (Bene).

Colo Colo (Chile) (0) 3 (Valdez 2, Castro) 60,000
Moscow Dynamo (Russia) (1) 3 (Koslov, Evrutchkin, Maslov)

Colo Colo: Santander; Valentini, Cruz; Ramirez, Piriz, Diaz; Valdes, Rodriguez, Beltrth, Casselli, Castro.

Moscow Dynamo: Yashin; Chitapov, Maslov; Anitchkin, Rjabov, Zikov; Sponiv, Koslov, Evrutchkin, Smirnov, Svilov.

JANUARY 19

Corinthians (2) 2 (Bene Tales)
Universidad de Chile (0) 0 33,000

Corinthians: Lula; Lidu, Edson; Rivelinho, Ditao, Luis Carlos; Buiso, Bene, Tales, Dirceu, Eduardo.

Universidad: Neff; Rodriguez, Albanes; Hodge, Quintano, Contreras; Araya, Yavar, Lazo, Camargo, Arriata.

JANUARY 21

San Lorenzo (1) 1 (Gonzalez P.)
Colo Colo (0) 1 (Castro)

San Lorenzo: Buttice; Villar, Rosl; Rendo, Calics, Albrecht; Telch, Gonzalez (P.), Fischer, Cocco, Veglio.
Colo Colo: Santander; Valenti, Cruz; Ramirez, Herrera, Diaz; Valdez, Rodriguez, Beiruth, Casselli, Castro.

Universidad de Chile (0) 3 (Lasso 3)
Red Star (Belgrade) (1) 3 (Lazarevic 2, Klenkovski)

Universidad: Neff; Gallardo, Rodriguez; Peralta, Quintano, Contreras; Ventrua, Hodge, Lasso, Camargo, Arriata.
Red Star: Durkovic; Pavlovic, Dojcinovsky; Krivocuca, Djoric, Klenkovski; Acimovic, Ostojic, Lazarevic, Antonijevic, Dzajic.

Sent off: Yavar and Quintano (both Universidad) and Antonijevic and Dzajic (both Red Star).

JANUARY 24

Moscow Dynamo (0) 3 (Abuitskin, Fiomin, Evrutchkin)
San Lorenzo (0) 1 (Veira)

Dynamo: Yashin; Chitapov, Maslov; Anitchkin, Rjabov, Semianov; Smirnov, Abuitskin, Evrutchkin, Chimapov, Svilov (Fiomin).
San Lorenzo: Buttice; Doria, Rosl; Cocco, Calics, Albrecht (Martinez); Telch, Gonzalez (P.), Fischer (Doval), Rendo, Veglio (Veira).

JANUARY 28

San Lorenzo (2) 3 (Cocco 2, Gonzalez)
Red Star (1) 2 (Lazarevic, Acimovic)

San Lorenzo: Buttice; Villar, Rosl; Rendo, Doria, Calics; Telch, Doval, Fischer, Cocco, Veglio (P. Gonzalez).
Red Star: Durkovic; Krivocuca, Dojcinovsky; Pavlovic, Joftic, Klenkovski; Acimovic, Ostojic, Lazarevic, Antonijevic, Dzajic.

FEBRUARY 1

Universidad de Chile (0) 1 (Yavar)
San Lorenzo (0) 0

Universidad: Neff; Gallardo, Rodriguez (J.); Hodge, Quintana, Rodriguez (M.); Yavar, Castro, Camargo, Marcos, Osorio.
San Lorenzo: Buttice; Villar, Rosl; Rendo, Calics, Doria; Telch, Doval, Fischer, Cocco, Veira (P. Gonzalez).

(Fischer sent-off in 16th minute).

Moscow Dynamo (0) 1 (Maslov)
Corinthians (1) 1 (Bene)

Dynamo: Yashin; Chitapov, Maslov; Anitchkin; Dolvonosov, Semionov; Smirnov, Eschetrekov, Sjunin, Evrutchkin, Svilov.
Corinthians: Lula; Lidu, Clovis; Dirceu, Ditao, Luis Carlos; Borges, Tales, Bene, Dash Albes, Eduardo.

FEBRUARY 2

Colo Colo (1) 3 (Rodriguez, Castro, Valdez, pen.)
Red Star (1) 2 (Dzajic 2)

Colo Colo: Santander; Valentini, Cruz; Ramirez, Herrera, Diaz; Valdez, Rodriguez (M.); Castro, Casselli, Gangas.
Red Star: Durkovic; Krivocuca, Dojcinovsky; Pavlovic, Djoric, Klenkovski; Acimovic, Ostojic, Lazarevic, Antonijevic, Dzajic.

Other games: (Jan. 19): Moscow Dynamo 1 (Labin) Red Star 1 (Dzajic), att. 33,000. (Jan. 24): Colo Colo 4 Corinthians 2, Maciel and Rivelinho, both of Corinthians, sent-off. (Jan. 28): Moscow Dynamo 2 (Evrutchkin 2) Universidad de Chile 1 (Marcos). (Feb. 5): Colo Colo 1 Universidad de Chile 0.

THIRD "CIUDAD DE MONTEVIDEO" CUP (in Uruguay)

JANUARY 21

Penarol (Uruguay) (0) 2 (Spencer, Rocha) 35,000
Moscow Torpedo (Russia) (0) 0

Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Figueroa, Forlan; Caetano, Varela, Mendez (Abbadie); Cortes, Rocha, Spencer, Nilo Acuna, Joya.
Moscow Torpedo: Skokov; Sepomiluiev, Pajomov; Lenev, Shustikov, Yanets; Mijailov, Streltzov, Salinov, Guerschovitsch, Savchenko (Shalimov).

JANUARY 24

Independiente (Argentina) (1) 4 (Bernao, Pastoriza, Pavoni, Maglione)
Moscow Torpedo (1) 1 (Mijailov)

Independiente: Santoro; Mircoli (Martin), Pavoni; De la Mata, Bravo, Figueroa; Bernao, Yazalde (Maglione), Mura (Ibanez), Pastoriza, Tarabini.
Torpedo: Skokov; Sepomiluiev, Pajomov; Lenev, Shustikov, Yanets; Mijailov (Ilais), Streltzov, Gulyamjaidakov, Guerschovitsch, Shalimov.

JANUARY 27

Penarol (1) 2 (Spencer, Abbadie)
Independiente (0) 1 (Tarabini)

Penarol: Solimando; Forlan, Figueroa; Caetano, Varela, Cortes; Abbadie, Acuna, Spencer, Rocha, Joya.
Independiente: Santoro; Mircoli, Pavoni; Mura, Bravo, Figueroa (C.); Bernao, Ibanez, De la Mata, Pastoriza, Tarabini.

JANUARY 31

Velez Sarsfield (Arg.) (2) 4 (Wehbe 2, Willington 2)
Spartak Bratislava (Czech.) (0) 0

Velez: Marin; Gallo, Atela; Rios, Ovejero, Zottola; Luna, Wehbe, Willington, Solorzano, Carone.
Spartak: Kramerius; Semendak, Chovanek; Bouska, Migas, Taborski; Masek, Dyba, Barton, Jurkanin, Vrana.

Nacional (Uruguay) (0) 2 (Celio 2, 1 pen.)
Independiente (0) 0

Nacional: Manga; Ubinas, Mujica; Prieto, Anchetta, Alvarez (E.); Alvarez (P.), Celoi, Maneiro, Montero, Castillo, Morales.
Independiente: Truccia; Martin, Pavoni; Tardivo (Pastoriza), Mansilla, Fugueroa; Bernao, Yazalde, De la Mata, Mura, Tarabini.

FEBRUARY 3

Velez Sarsfield (1) 2 (Willington, Rios)
Penarol (0) 1 (Rocha)

Velez: Marin; Sinatra, Atela; Solorzano, Ovejero, Zottola; Perez, Rios, Willington, Luna, Carone.
Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Forlan, Caetano; Cortez, Figuerna, Varela; Abbadie, Rojas, Spencer, Rocha, Joya.

Spartak Bratislava (3) 5 (Masek 2, Jurkanin 2, Kvasnak)
Independiente (1) 2 (Pastoriza 2)

Spartak: Kouba; Migas, Chovanek; Taborsky, Bouska, Semendak; Masek, Dyba, Jurkanin, Kvasnak, Vrana.
Independiente: Truccia; Martin, Pavoni; Mura, Monges, Figueroa; Bernao, Ibanez (Mircoli), De la Mata, Pastoriza, Tarabini.

(Monges sent-off after 70 minutes).

FEBRUARY 5

Nacional (1) 3 (Morales 2, Montero Castillo)
Moscow Torpedo (0) 1 (Stiridonov)

Torpedo: Laizan; Sepomiluiev, Pajomov; Yanets, Chumanov, Shustikov; Mijailov, Streltsov, Guerschovitsch, Stirsdonov, Bais.
Nacional: Dogliotti; Ubinas, Mujica; Montero Castillo, Anchetta, Alvarez (E.); Celio, Prieto, Maneiro, Alvarez (P.), Morales.

Anton Fritsch 23, popularly known by the nickname of "Toni" is a member of the Rapid Vienna first team squad.

FEBRUARY 7

Moscow Torpedo (3) 3 (Streltsov 2, Shalimov) 10,000
Velez Sarsfield (0) 0

Torpedo: Leizan; Chumanov, Pajomov; Krasnov, Yanets, Lenev; Shalimov (Savchenko), Gulyamjaidakov, Streltsov, Stiridonov, Ilais.
Velez: Marin; Sinatra, Atela; Solorzano, Ovejero, Zottola; Perez, Rios, Willington, Luna, Carone (Bianchi).

(Perez (Velez) and Krasnov (Torpedo) sent-off after 33 minutes).

Spartak Bratislava (0) 1 (Jurkanin)
Penarol (0) 0

Spartak: Kouba; Tenner, Migas; Taborsky, Bouska, Chovanek; Masek, Dyba, Kvasnak, Jurkanin, Vrana.
Penarol: Mazurkiewicz; Tabare Gonzalez, Forlan; Caetano, Varela, Figueroa; Cortes, Acuna, Rios, Polo Carrera, Rous (Vasconcellos).

FEBRUARY 10

Nacional (0) 2 (Morales, Mujica, pen.)
Velez Sarsfield (0) 1 (Luna)

Nacional: Manga; Ubinas, Mujica; Ramos, Anchetta, Alvarez; Celio, Prieto, Maneiro, Cubillas, Morales.
Velez: Marin; Sinatra, Atela; Solorzano, Ovejero, Zottola; Bianchi, Rios, Willington, Luna, Nogara.

(Sinatra was sent-off after 80 minutes).

Other games: (Jan. 24): Spartak Bratislava (2) 2 (Kvasnak pen., Masek) Nacional (1) 1 (Prieto). (Jan. 27): Spartak Bratislava 1 Moscow Torpedo 1. (Feb. 14): Nacional 3 Penarol 1.

CLUB INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLIES

(Jan. 1): Deportivo Canarias (Venezuela) 0 OFK Belgrade (Yugoslavia) 7 (in Caracas, Venezuela). Saprissa (Costa Rica) 1 Spartak Trnava (Czech) 2 (in Costa Rica). (Jan. 12): Deportivo La Coruna (Spain) 1 Spartak Trnava 2 (in Caracas). Sporting Lisbon (Portugal) 0 Spartak Trnava 3 (in Caracas). (Jan. 18): Alianza Lima (Peru) 0 Spartak Trnava 2 (in Lima). (Jan. 18): Millonarios de Bogota (Colombia) 2 Gornik Zabrze (Poland) 2 (in Bagota). (Jan. 13): Independiente Santa Fe (Colombia) 0 Gornik Zabrze 2 (in Bagota). (Jan. 19): Universitario De Deportes (Peru) 1 Spartak Trnava 1 (in Lima). (Jan. 19): Deportivo Italia (Venezuela) 4 Sporting Lisbon 3 (in Caracas), Ernesto (Sporting) sent-off.

JANUARY 26

Alianza Lima (Peru) (0) 1 (Zegarra P., pen.)
Racing Club (1) 1 (Salomone)

Alianza: Zegarra (D.); Mano, Guzman; Lugo, Nagel, Gonzalez; Leon, Zegarra (P.), Ribianes, Rostaing, Martinez.
Racing: Cejas; Chabay, Diaz; Adorno, Perfumo, Basile; Chaldu, Mori, Cardenas, Rulli, Salome.

(Basile sent-off in second-half).

(Jan. 30): America (Mexico) (0) 1 (Zague) Botafogo (Brazil) (2) 2 (Rogerio, Roberto) (in Mexico City). Att. 25,000. (Jan. 30): Transval (Surinam) 3 Flamengo (Brazil) 2 (in Paramaribo). Att. 7,000.

JANUARY 30

Universitario De Deportes (1) 1 (Chumpitaz pen.) (in Lima)
Racing Club (2) 2 (Salomone, Cardenas) 20,000

Universitario: Correa; Sema, Fuentes; Gonzalez, Lafuente, Chumpitaz; Challe, Calatayud, Casaretto, Uribe, Rodriguez.
Racing: Cejas; Chabay, Diaz; Rulli, Perfumo, Basile; Chaldu, Mori, Cardenas, Adorno, Salomone.

(Calatayud was sent-off after 40 minutes).

FEBRUARY 2

Universitario De Deportes (1) 1 (Calatayud) (in Lima)
River Plate (Argentina) (2) 2 (Mas, D. Onega) 7,600

Universitario: Correa; Lafuente, Fuentes; Gonzalez, Fernandez, Chumpitaz; Challe, Calatayud, Casaretto, Alva (Uribe), Rodriguez.
River Plate: Carballo (Gironacci); Ferreiro (Morcillo), Dominichi; Rinaldi, Paira (Lopez), Guzman; Gutierrez, Montivero, Onega (D.), Solari, Mas.

● *Continued next month*

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